



Nº 3,204

MONDAY JANUARY 27 1997

WEATHER: Cold and grey

(IR45p) 40p

SPORT

avourites fall the Cup



COMMENT

On Safari with **Rory Bremner**



SUNDAY



THE A6 MURDER



Wrongly hanged: Hanratty is found innocent

EXCLUSIVE

by Jason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent

James Hanratty, hanged for one of the her memory of the attacker was fading. most notorious crimes this century, is set to be cleared 35 years after his execution for the A6 murder.

Hanratty, 25, was convicted of brutally killing a married man before he raped the victim's lover and repeatedly shot her

leaving her paralysed for life. Home Office officials are understood to have concluded that Hanratty was innocent. This follows an unpublished police inquiry which concluded last year that he was a victim of a miscarriage of justice and that the murder was probably part of a wider conspiracy.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, is expected to announce within the next few weeks that he is to refer the case to the Court of Appeal, where the conviction is expected to be quashed.

The reappraisal of the case follows more than three decades of campaign-ing by members of Hanratty's family and his supporters. Many of the campaigners believe the real killer was Peter Alphon, who is alleged to have admitted to the crime on numerous occasions. There are also a string of evidence that links Mr Alphon to the murder.

However, Mr Alphon, 66, speaking from his home in London, told the Independent that he was innocent.

Hanratty, a petty burglar, was con-victed of abducting Michael Gregsten, 36, and his mistress Valerie Storie, 22, at gunpoint from a cornfield at Taplow, near Maidenhead, in Berkshire, in August 1961. The lovers were forced to drive about 60 miles to a lay-by on the A6 near Bedford, known as Deadman's

At the end of the two-hour trip Mr Gregsten, a research scientist was shot dead. Miss Storie was then sexually assaulted and before being shot repeatedly at close range.

Hanratty was arrested in Blackpool two months later, on 9 October. Reports at the time said this followed the "amazing" identitification of Hanratty by Janet Gregsten, the wife of the dead man, who saw him on a London street and her "intuition" told her he was the killer even though at that stage he was not a suspect.

He was convicted largely on the iden-tification evidence of Miss Storie, despite her only seeing her assailant for a few seconds and only identifying Hanratty in a second line up. She later admitted that

On the morning of his execution at Bedford jail Hanratty wrote to his family, insisting he was innocent and asking them to clear his name. His brother, Michael Hanratty, 58, who has fought for the past three decades for the case to be taken to the Court of Appeal, said: "The day before Jimmy was hanged he said: I'm dying tomorrow but I'm innocent. Clear my name.' This is what we need

to be able to do." At first the campaign was headed by Hanratty's father, also named James, who toured Britain showing a film in an effort to clear his son's name. He handed out leaflets to the public outside the House of Commons proclaiming his son's innocence.

But any pardon will come too late for Mr Hanratty's father, who died 20 years ago. The campaign was taken up by Hanratty's mother Mary, who is now suffer-ing from Alzheimer's disease, along with Michael, and his other brothers,

Peter and Richard. Other campaigners included two lawyers, John Justice and Jeremy Fox, who became convinced of Hanratty's innocence. Four books and a number of television programmes, including two by Yorkshire TV, have also been instrumental in having the case re-

In the 1992 programme, "Hanratty: Mystery of Dead Man's Hill", a documentary for Yorkshire TV, the film-maker Bob Woffinden called for DNA tests to be carried out to establish the true identity of the murderer.

These were eventually carried out at the beginning of 1995, by comparing semen found at the scene of the crime with DNA from Hanratty's exhumed body. But unfortunately the DNA retrieved was not of good enough quality to obtain a result. The campaign has gone on ever since.

One of the most implausible aspects of the case was the acceptance that Hanratty, a city dweller, should by chance come across the couple in a cornfield and carry out a random killing.

It emerged after his execution that Hanratty also had a good alibi. Fourteen witnesses came forward to back up his claim that he was in Rhyl, North Wales - 250 miles from the scene of the

In his interview with the Independent,



The 35-year fight for justice

22 August 1961: Michael Gregsten murdered and Valerie Storie assaulted and

17 February 1962: James Hanratty tried at Bedford Crown Court and convicted of murder 4 April 1962: Hanratty

hanged 1967: Peter Alphon "confesses" to killing in Paris, but later denies it 1971: Paul Foot's book Who 1992: Television programme Hanratty: Mystery of Dead Man's Hill broadcast 1995: Inconclusive DNA tests of Hanratty carried out 1996: Police inquiry concludes Hanratty was

innocent

JURY TAKE 9½ THE murder trial of the century ended dramatically at 9.13 last night when James Hamathy was found guilty of the murder of Michael Gregsten. He was sentenced to death.

Wester at the back of the court at Bestord Assists SCREA me durber the

tereamed when the eleven-man jury returned their verdet in the case he tells judge

'Not Called'

-the A6 killer

Mr Alphon said that Hanratty was a "psy-chopath" who had been hired by the wife of the dead man and her lover. Earlier this month he sent a letter to the Home Secretary, saying: "... the nightmare has persisted through four decades of controversy and speculation surrounding the

He added: "My victimisation both at the hands of the police and my defamers in the media dates from when Scotland Yard quite unjustifiably caused my name to blazoned across the headlines ...

But growing concerns about the safety of the conviction brought a Scotland Yard inquiry headed by Detective Superintendent Roger Matthews. He completed his report last year and is understood to have concluded that Hanratty was wrongly hanged.

He was executed in April 1962, but doubts about his conviction played a significant role in the decision by MPs to abolish capital punishment in

Geoffrey Bindman, the solicitor who

represents the Hanratty family, said: "We have been asking for a referral to the Court of Appeal with the new evidence for more than a year. The police officer appointed to look into the case came up with a view that he was inno cent. Clearly, his conviction should by

quashed by the Court of Appeal. There are a lot of people who say bring back hanging. The fact that such a well-known hanged person turns out to be innocent will act as a powerful example against capital punish-

The Home Secretary will have to announce his decision on the Hanratty case by the end of March when the new independent Criminal Case Review Commission takes over the role of resolving claims of miscarriage of justice from the the Home Office's C3 depart-

It would be unusual for a Home Secretary to go against the advice of his ofin such cases.

Miscarriage of justice? page 8

parental appeals had risen by 44

G Before his execution, Hanratty wrote to his family insisting he was innocent:

I'm dying tomorrow. Clear my name 🤊

Reading standards at new low

dren. Margaret Thatcher's 1987

promised in his 1992 mani-

esto: "Popular schools which

Newcastle out of Cup Newcastle United went out of the FA Cup yesterday after losing 2-1 at home to Nottingham Forest. In the other big cup match of the day. Chelsea went through to the fifth round after coming back from 0-2 down to defeat Liverpool 4-2. Sport tabloid

CONTENTS The Broadsheet Business & City18,19 Comment13-15 Foreign News 9-12 Leading Articles13 Objuaries 16 The Tabloid

Network

.....10-22

TV: & Radio27,28

Appallingly low standards of reading in primary schools across Britain are identified in a new report, published as the Cabinet meets today to consider its election manifesto - with education reportedly at the top of the agenda. The independent survey of

Anthony Bevins and Lucy Ward

National Curriculum test results for 600,000 7-year-olds suggests there is a "major crisis" in the teaching of English and math-ematics. The survey, carried out for the right-wing Social Market Foundation, examined unpublished Government data on test results for reading, spelling and mathematics.

It concluded that the findings of failure, between and within local education authorities. amounted to "a major indictment of what has passed for 'good primary practice' over the

And while the Conservatives habitually blame Labour-controlled local education authorities for the education crisis, the survey shows that Conservative-controlled Westminster fell below the national average grade for 7-year-old reading and spelling results. One proposal up for discussion at Chequers today is the creation of "super-schools"; allowing good schools to expand to meet the demand of parents wanting the best for their chil-

election manifesto said schools should be allowed to expand to their "agreed physical capacity
... Popular schools, which have are oversubscribed will be earned parent support by of-fering good education, will then given the resources to expand." However, five years later, a he able to expand beyond decade on from Baroness present pupil numbers." Thatcher's pledge and after 18 Under the heading "Opporyears of Conservative Government, a recent Audit Commistunity for All" - the present campaign theme - John Major sion report found that popular

schools were still unable to

grow to match demand, and

per cent over three years. Today's Social Market Foundation report said that while Ofsted had recently found 79 per cent of pupils in three London local education authorities were below average in reading, that was by no means unusual. The results for reading given in this paper for these three LEAs are very low," it said. "But they are very similar to those for

about another 20 LEAs ... together with the primary schools in other great conurbations such as Birmingham, Bradford, Manchester and Sheffield. Even within the best authority, Richmond-upon-Thames, there is a reading age gap of almost two years between the

best and worst schools in the borough. A similar "crisis" is identified for mathematics.

Today's Chequers meeting will also be faced with policy proposals on law and order, employment, and health, but there is a strong requirement to meet and match Tony Blair's pledge to step up the political pace on education. One plan is to offer all state schools the same independence at present granted to church schools, giving schools under town hall control the chance of greater freedom to τιπ their own affairs.

The Labour education spokesman, David Blunkett, said yesterday: "It is quite clear that the Conservatives have absolutely no ideas of their own on raising standards in schools, developing new local partnerships, or improving the professionalism of teachers. Leading article, page 13



FLEXIBLE INVESTMENTS CAST IRON **GUARANTEES**

In an uncertain financial climate, what could be better than a guaranteed return on your investment from a name you can trust?

Abbey National offer a range of guaranteed investments so you can choose the one that best suits your personal needs.

To find out more call Abbey National Direct on 0800 100 801 quoting ref. A402A/13, or call into your nearest.





To assist us in improving our service we may record or monitor calls. Abber National and the Umbrella Couple symbol are trademarks of Abber National ple, Abber House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL.



But last night a spokesman for Tony Blair's office said: We are not ruling out for ever spending a penny on the royal yacht. We are not saying never ever a penny.

Nothing could have been clearer than the guidance offered on Saturday; that Shadhad sent a message to the Queen, letting it be known that would be no envernment mon-Labour would not honour last week's Tory pledge to pay for a new £60m yacht.

For good measure, and to firm up the non-attributable briefing given by Mr Brown's office, defence spokesman John Reid went on BBC television on Saturday night to add: "We are saying that we will not fund, out of public expenditure, £60m on a royal yacht when there are demands like health and education 7

But there was a more equivocal line from Tony Blair's ofow Chancellor Gordon Brown fice, with one source suggesting

would be no government moncy at all for the royal yacht.

Yesterday morning, Alistair Darling, shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury and Labour's spending axeman, went on BBC television's Breakfast with Frost to give the definitive Labour view - a reflection of the leader's line.

Frost's question was clear enough: "You have in this case, according to the stories, specifically decided that the royal yacht should not be part of your spending?" Mr Darling replied: "No, what ... what we have said Frost interrupted: "You wish these people who write nancing the replacement; a haven't. Oh, it's not..." Mr Dar- these stories would actually clear hint that private finance ling continued, saying that the yacht had to be considered alongside other projects in education and the health service, but he did not rule out

government spending. That prompted Frost to ask: "So contrary though, Alistair, to the leaks yesterday to the pa-pers, this decision has not been made and there may be taxpayers' money under Labour spent on Britannia?"

In spite of his frontbench colleague's appearance on BBC television news the night before, Mr Darling said: "Well, I do

come and ask, rather than rely on leaks and so on.'

Mr Darling later apologised for any confusion, indicating that there would indeed be no taxpayers' money for a royal yacht under Labour.

He said there was no money set aside for a royal yacht in Labour's spending plans for its first two years in office and, after that, it would have to take its chances against other, competing claims in health and education.

However, Labour would also be looking at other means of fi-

would be sought.

"I'm normally as clear as day, Mr Darling told The Independent. "I'm sorry if there was any confusion.

Last night, the line was that there was no budget for a royal yacht in Labour's first twoyear spending plans. After that, the project would have to compete with education and health and, therefore, private finance

would be sought.

But that did not mean that no taxpayers' money would be spent by a Labour Government on a royal yacht.

Car bomb injures soldier in Northern Ireland

A soldier was recovering yesterday after being slightly injured when a car bomb exploded in Northern Ireland. The injured man was one of three off-duty soldiers checking their vehicle in the Lisburn Street car park, in Ballynahinch, Co Down, when the device went off. A Royal Ulster Constabulary spokesman said the victim was treated

at hospital for minor injuries and was later released. No organisation has claimed responsibility for the bomb,

which exploded at 1.30am. Superintendent Ronnie Hawthorn, an RUC subdivisional commander, said: "As a response of the increased terrorist threat and increased terrorist activity, as was witnessed at Ballydugan last weekend, there is a heightened degree of security and vigilance." He added that it was a miracle no one had been killed in the blast.

■ Five men were arrested in the early hours yesterday after security forces spotted suspicious activity in Main Street.

Dungiven, Co Londonderry. A police spokesman said an improvised grenade and a rifle were recovered as part of the operation.

Baby-milk officials under fire

The Department of Health is to review its handling of health scares after criticism from health visitors over delays in dealing with the salmonella outbreak linked to baby-milk

powder, a spokeswoman said yesterday.

The Community Practitioners and Health Visitors Association is to write to the Government to voice concerns over what it believes was a two-day delay in consulting health professionals. More than 10,000 worried mothers have called telephone hotlines for advice after a possible link between an outbreak of salmonella affecting 12 children and the product Milumil was announced. All packs of Milumil were withdrawn from sale while further tests were carried out.

A Department of Health spokeswoman said: "We made group effort to get information to the public as quickly and

every effort to get information to the public as quickly and efficiently as possible, but we can always learn from

Meningitis kills US student

An American has died of meningitis just 10 days after he began a three-year degree course at a Scottish university. Brian Bainbridge, 27, a physiotherapy student at Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, died of meningococcal septicaemia on Saturday, two hours after being taken to hospital from halls of residence at Woolmanhill.

Mr Bainbridge, from Maryland, arrived in Scotland 10

days ago with a group of 21 American students – all of whom have been given antibiotics. Other students at Woolmanhill have been advised that only people in close contact with Mr Bainbridge needed medication. A spokesman at the university described his death as "a tragedy".

Activists burn poultry lorries

Animal rights activists yesterday claimed responsibility for a fire which left seven lorries loaded with frozen poultry badly damaged. A spokesman for the Animal Liberation Front said incendiary devices had been placed beneath lorries at Buxsted Fresh Quality Poultry at Brackley, Northamptonshire, on Saturday night. No one was hurt in the fires which caused thousands of pounds worth of damage.

Coach driver black-out

A driver who blacked out at the wheel of a National Express coach yesterday while travelling at 60 mph on the M42 is to be questioned about the incident, police said. The hostess on the coach, Tina McCall, had to steer the

vehicle to safety after the driver Mark Davies, 30, lost consciousness near Solihull, West Midlands. The coach was badly damaged - but Ms McCall, 40, and the 30 passengers were unhurt. Mr Davies was treated in hospital for a minor head injury. Police said there is no suggestion that drink or drugs were involved.

Big winners on the National Lottery may be given their own club so they can get together to discuss the impact of their new-found fortunes on their lives, Camelot confirmed yesterday. The club would be open to around 300 millionaires and 2,000 players who have won more than about £150,000, but details of the membership list would of course remain a closely guarded secret.

Striking a note for the birds

The desperate plight of Britain's disappearing songbirds is to be raised in Parliament today by Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow.

Some of the best-loved species, he warned yesterday, which were common a few years ago, are facing decimation unless urgent action is taken to protect them.



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD Belgum ... 8Fr80 aalv Carones . . . Pt.300 Madel ...Okr18 Norwa ..Fr14 Spain German, . . .DMJ.5 Swede

1 (Midde East 2 (Far East and cheque payarie Led to 43 Mar 171-538 8388

Uzvernbourg . . . LPGO USA \$3.00 Histon; Newspapers, telephone 01988 840370.

18 feet below, the word from Big Momma is: No surrender

Jojo Moyes

Five "human mole" protesters barricaded in a tunnel deep below a road camp in Devon were threatening to remain underground for a month after their surrender terms were rejected yesterday.

maze of tunnels 18 feet underground, said they wanted construction to stop until an "unbiased and open" public in-quiry was held into the new A30 project including its design, building and financial and operating systems. They also called for relevant documents to be open to public scrutiny, with financial details of the road to be revealed to the inquiry.

But the under-sheriff of Devon, Trevor Coleman, leading the eviction of the Fairmile camp on the route of the A30 near Exeter, said their proposals were "totally unacceptable".

"They are unrealistic and I could not deliver on them anyway because I do not have the power to do so. I cannot negotiate," he said.

Speaking from below ground protester John Woodhams said that if their demands were not met "we will just hang in here as long as we possibly can in the hope he [Mr Coleman] will change his mind and save a lot moved off site by police order. of time and money".

The only female underground protester, known as Animal. warned that they would ultimately lock themselves on to setive communications had been cure underground points and set up by the police and the unadded: "We have got food and derground specialists, but they

water to last almost indefinitely." The Fairmile eviction is the third and last involving camps built over the last two and a half years in the path of the £65m, 13-mile road scheme between Exeter and Honiton.

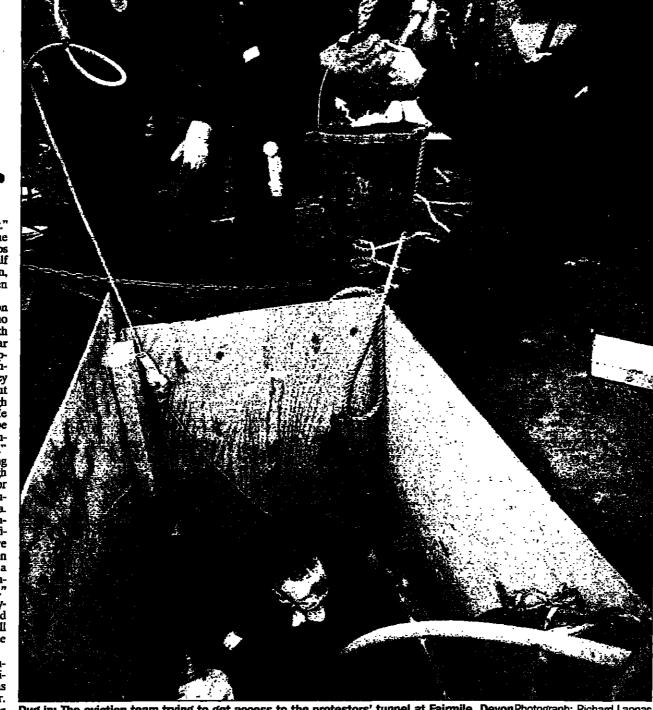
Stephen Langley, a surgeon at Southampton Hospital who The protesters, who are in a yesterday descended the length of the protest tunnel so far cleared, said the protesters "appear to be very well with plen-ty of food and water. They could be down there for about a month, they have got enough supplies for that long". He added: "I would not like to be down there. It is cold and confined and the soil is very wet."

Early yesterday, tunnelling specialists cut their way through a six-inch-thick steel-plated door leading into the protesters' tunnel, which is called Big Momma. Mr Coleman said the tun-

nellers faced arrest when they finally came out. "They are obstructing me, I have been down the shaft and read them a specific warning relating to tun-nelling obstruction and the cost." But he added that it was "any-

one's guess" how long it would by citizens' band radio link, take to get them out. "We still do not know the extent of the tunnel," he said Earlier the protesters' com-

munications van, which had a direct link to the tunnellers, was link, but that closed down shortly after their news conference. Mr Coleman said alterna-



The protesters set up another Dug in: The eviction team trying to get access to the protestors' tunnel at Fairmile, Devon Photograph: Richard Lappas

Video footage brought out by

it was believed behind that

had been rejected by the pro-testers. Talks with the protest-ers were held through the doors. showed a second steel-plated and a "maze of offshoots". camp had been extended be-door, and a spokesman for the Meanwhile, work was continu-under-sheriff, Mark Clark, said ing to remove three remaining said to be coming to the area one of the tunnelling experts there was an 18ft vertical shaft

protesters from trees on the site. A police cordon around the

from Newbury and elsewhere, Mr Coleman said

Clergy forget Commandments

16

RAI

nish a h

E.

and by k Ani ther and lam Stol d loth 117 SK

rev si C relc on ori

ch ^{3ria} ner ich ion

ed ((6.

120

Rej and ov C cen iffa

Almost two-thirds of Church of England vicars cannot remember all Ten Commandments according to the results of a random poli

Some of the 200 clergy questioned could name only two -Thou shalt not commit adultery" and "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife".

The results of the poll provoked anger among traditionalists, including Conservative MP John Redwood, who has called for stronger moral leadership from the church. He said: "It's their job to remind us of the laws of Christianity. The commandments are central to the faith and I am amazed that

so few could recall them." One vicar, the Rev Geoffrey

Shilvock, of Wolverley, Worcestershire, who could not remember. Of course they know they are on the spot like this, of course they know they are on the spot like this, of course they know they are on the spot like this, of course they know they are on the spot like this, of course they know they are on the spot like this, of course they know they are on the spot like this, of course they know they are on the spot like this, of course they know they are on the spot like this. her all the commandments, said: The trouble is that they are very negative. Most people prefer a more positive approach."

Archbishop of Canterbury, defended the clergy. "They were

Lord Coggan, 87, the former

commandments] provide a framework for life. Within the perimeters of these commandments you have a healthy society. Step outside them and you have a recipe for disaster.

A Church of England spokesjust caught on the hop that's all. man said: "When people are put

... and in case you cannot remember

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

10. Thou shalt not covet they neighbour's wife.

2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image 3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain... 4. Honour thy father and thy mother ...

5.Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

7.Thou shalt not steal. 8. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house.

they can't remember. Given time they would recall them. However. Canon Peter

Goodridge, from Truro, Cornwall, said it was right they were forgotten. "They were right for a community from a different time living a nomadic life. The poll conducted for The

Sunday Times, also found that many vicars do not believe in fundamental aspects of traditional Christian faith. Thirty one per cent of those questioned did not believe in the Virgin Birth; 12 per cent did not expect a Second Coming: and 5 per cent did not

believe Jesus performed miracles. Asked which politician offered the best Christian leadership, 49 per cent said Tony Blair, 9 per cent Paddy Ashdown and 7 per cent John Major.

Former ministers share £500,000 'goodbye' cash

isters who have resigned or been sacked since the 1992 general a national minimum wage. election have shared £467,000 in tax-free "golden goodbyes". Labour claimed yesterday.

John Redwood, who resigned as Secretary of State for Wales to fight John Major for the Tory party leadership on a platform of backing spending cuts, col-lected £8.658 as his severance payment. Former Chancellor Norman Lamont, another supporter of public-spending cuts. also received more than £8,000,

according to Labour's dossier. lan McCartney, Labour's employment spokesman, said he obtained the severance pay-ment figures after research by the House of Commons library. He contrasted these pay-

More than 70 Tory former min-ments with the Government's a national minimum wage. "Former ministers who attack protection for the low paid have been happy to walk off with tax-free cheques for up to £8,000 - more than the 2 million people earning less than £3 an hour get in a year." Mr Mc-

Cartney said. Under the current rules, ministers receive one-quarter of their ministerial salary when they leave office, regardless of whether they resign or were sacked. Mr McCartney said: "It seems that whatever the reason for their exit from office, former Tory ministers have had no scruples about accepting a 'golden goodbye' at the tax-payer's expense."

the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

ts A15.00	OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTION
L4,500	As mail, 13 weeks: Europe £110.76; Zone :
ra Esc325	America, Africa and India) £184,08; Zone 2
· · · 43 cents	Australasia) £206.70. To order, please send o
W Nkr20 Si Esc325	to Johnsons International Media Senices I
Pts300	harboux, London E14 97R or telephone 017
nSkr21	Credit cards welcome.
	BACK INSUES

Free with your Emirates flight. An Emirates flight.

4 zones, 21 destinations, 1 terrific offer: fly Emirates full IATA fare return in Business or First and get a free Economy return to any destination in the same zone (see below). Trust the award-winning airline to give you the best rewards.





THE FINEST IN THE SKY OVER 100 INTERNATIONAL AWARDS, 41 INTERNATIONAL DESTINATIONS, FOR FULL DETAILS CONTACT EMIRATES ON 0171 808 0808 (LONDON) OR 0181 437 8007 (MANCHESTER) OR YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL AGENT. www/okgroup.com OVER 100 INTERNATIONAL AWARDS, 4: INTERNATIONAL AWARDS, 5: INTERNATIONA

مكتا من الدعل

bomb injures soldie

THE INDEPENDENT

orthern ireland

r-milk officials under fire

ningitis kills US student

assts burn poultry lorie

延年 driver black-out

winners together at Cand

sking a note for the bid

NEWSPAPERS

Ban urged on holiday drug after girl dies

A six-year-old girl has died after using a controversial antimalarial drug used by thousands of British people every year who travel to areas where the disease is rife. It is the first documented death linked to mefloquine. which is known to cause serious

side effects in some people. The drug, also known as Lariam, is popular because it only hundreds of travellers have re-ported psychological distur-as one in 140 travellers who

pression and hallucinations. Suicide attempts have also been blamed on the use of Lariam.

Last year a Bristol-based law firm announced that it was to seek compensation for people who suffered serious side effects after taking Lariam. To date. Lawrence Tucketts has been contacted by around 500 prospective litigants.

In August, the British Medical has to be taken once a week. But Journal reported that the inci-

unpleasant enough to temporarily stop their day-to-day activities. This compares with a figure of one in 1100 of those taking other anti-malarials chloroquine and programil. Because of increasing resistance.

than before.

Lance Cole, of the pressure group Lariam Action, which as members, called for immediate suspension of the drug saying: "This is the first attrib-

lem with the drug."

In the case reported in the Lancet by doctors at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcas-tle, a six-year-old healthy girl was given Lariam for going to Nigeria on a four-week holiday. these drugs are less effective She had not taken the drug before and was not on any other

medication. Five weeks after starting the course, she developed blisters on her lips and a swollen face. Her skin erupted, parts of her utable death we know about. It body became ulcerated and she

veloped fever, unaemia and septicaemia (blood poisoning). After being admitted to a paediatric intensive care unit she suffered heart problems and

died after 19 days.
Writing in the Lancer, Pro-fessor Clifford Lawrence of the Department of Dermotology and Plastic Surgery said: "We believe that this case of fatal toxic epidermal necrolysis in a previously fit and healthy sixyear-old was due to melloquine. Extensive investigations

ternative drug or other causes." The doctors said hat the in-

crease of chloroquine-resistant malaria, and easier travel to places where malaria is endemic meant that the need for effective and safe treatment was "self-evident."

But: "We are concerned that anti-malarials such as fansidar and mefloquine, with long half lives, may produce severe and potentially life threatening adverse reactions which persist long after the drug is with-

weather. He said his staff are

straightened out, and said the

mechanical report was simply

But resident and local

has followed the fountain

nothing has exercised

saga since its inception, says

Horsham as fiercely since the

council introduced wheelie

bins – and the row shows no

reporter Martine James, who

instructed to be relaxed "if it

takes until March" to be

a formality.

portance of careful reporting of side effects if further deaths are to be prevented."

A spokeswoman for Roche Products Limited UK, which manufactures Lariam, said: This is a very sad case. What Roche would wish to underline, however, is that the symptom is not unique to Lariam, that it is extremely rare and that the risks of not taking appropriate prophylaxis for malaria are far

The symptom described is

drugs including mefloquine. A warning about the symptom is included on the Lariam data sheet produced by the

But Mr Cole said we call for a suspension of the drug: "Malaria is a dangerous disease and people must take precautions against it but what is the point of taking an anti-malarial drug no matter how effective it is if it makes you feel worse than the actual disease?"

Hail blithe spirit

(But not if you live in Middle England)

exceeded their hopes. While a piece of radical sculpture might not be expected to

hysterical. Inhabitants have bombarded the local West Sussex County Times with letters calling for the sculpture's removal, describing it as "an abomination". an "eyesore" "irrelevant, incongruous, incoherent and indulgent". and, less flamboyantly, "an oversized pastie".

England in 1819

The newspaper itself and quality as a public work please everyone in a of art has attracted widespread derision and conservative home-counties town, the design has elicited distress. Just how lone it will criticism bordering on the

> not worked properly since it was unveiled and parts of it are to be removed this week so that alterations can take place. Horsham District Council has commissioned an independent report on the sculpture's mechanical

Revolutionary lines from Shelley

An old, mad, blind, despised, and dying king,-

Through public scom, - mud from a muddy spring, -

A people starved and stabbed in the untilled field,-

Princes, the dregs of their dull race, who flow

Rulers who neither see, nor feel, nor know,

But leech-like to their fainting country cling,

Till they drop, blind in blood, without a blow,

Makes as a two-edged sword to all who wield .-

Religion Christless, Godless - a book sealed;

A Senate, ~ Time's worst statute unrepealed,-

Burst, to illumine our tempestuous day.

Are graves, from which a glorious Phantom may

Golden and sanguine laws which tempt and slay;

An army, which liberticide and prev

engineering before assuming responsibility for it.

The fountain has splashed so much water over the square that one councillor suggested the area be turned into a skating rink. One local man is taking legal advice after he fractured his skull and dislocated his shoulder after coming off his bike on

Vandals, however, find the work of art particularly attractive - not surprising say locals, when you situate a piece of moving modern art between a pub and a

keen supporter of modern week and was keen to point out that while it financed the sculpture, the company had had "very little say" in what that sculpture was. A spokeswoman said she

defenders. The Horsham



Poetic licence: Percy Bysshe Shelley by Amelia Curren (1819) in the National Portrait Gallery, and the poet's memorial in Horsham which has caused local uproau

Society, described the

back to the sculpture's

bigger crowd since John

Martin Pearson, the

chief executive, is bullish

Horsham District Council's

opening ceremony.

in 1949," he said.

sculpture as "magnificent".

The next time planners ask

themselves if something is too

modern, said spokesman John

"I certainly haven't seen a

George Haigh, the acid-bath

Town Hall magistrates' court

murderer, appeared at the

Buchanan, they should think

Nearly 200 years after his death, the controversial poet Percy Bysshe Shelley has again managed to divide his home town of Horsham in Sussex. He has done this not as a result of his revolutionary, anti-monarchist, vegetarian views - but through the sculpture installed to commemorate him.

Unveiled in a blaze of glory last November, Universe Rising is a huge, mechanised globe designed by the award-winning sculptor Angela Conner and paid for by Sainsbury's, the

supermarket chain. The moving sculpture stretches across 45 feet and stands 28 feet high. Six and a half tons of water run down it, while smaller "satellite globes" float in pools of water. At the opening ceremony, the mayor of Lerici, in Italy, where Shelley died, described the memorial, after some thought, as "very

The sculpture's aim, according to Horsham District Council, was to provide a focus for the town centre that was challenging and controversial "like the poet himself". In this, it has commented: "Its appearance

survive is the burning question of the moment." The detractors are not just complaining about the design. The £140,000 sculpture has

ice nearby. McDonald's restaurant.

Sainsbury's plc, generally a art, appeared to be distancing itself from Rising Universe last

could not say Sainsbury's was "unequivocally pleased" with the end result. "Art and architecture are very subjective and on this Sainsbury's would say beauty is in the eye of the beholder,

But the sculpture has its Society, like the Fountain

Photograph: Andrew Hasson

about the sculpture's future, signs of abating. "There the design and drawings from blaming many of the seems to be no middle a 17th-century book, after problems on the cold ground on this at all. But "someone came into

supposed to do.

controversy with the

'golden globe" sculpture by

public protest. She has also

recorded similarities between

Ms Conner in 1995 after

reception to point them out". people who come in from Meanwhile, a curious outside the area to look at it tend to love it," she said. "It side-effect of the debate is that the local paper has been certainly promotes debate, and that's what modern art is deluged with poetry about sculpture. The fountain's She has added to the future may be uncertain, Ms James said, but it had revelation that Cambridge certainly proved an apt City Council rejected a similar memoríal.

"Shelley was such a controversial figure," Ms James said. "This just follows in his footsteps."

Gorgeous helps stop greyhound racing from going to the dogs

An ordinary greyhound adopted by a new television game show for lottery losers is set to become Britain's most famous dog after unexpectedly romping home at generous odds in front

of millions of armchair fans. Gorgeous, a previously unknown two-year-old black and white bitch, is the star turn in a Channel 4 series called Last Chance Lottery aimed at the vast majority of punters who end up out of pocket every week on the National Lottery.

In its first programme on Sat-urday night, shown an hour after the main lottery draw, the bulk of the show's £300 "jackpot" was put on the dog at 7-1 in the 9.30 at Harlow.

Overcoming a slow start from trap four, Gorgeous defied the long odds and turned the form book upside down by winning the race by several lengths. The win, only her fourth, was worth a mere £250 in prize money but it netted the Last Chance



Star of the show: Gorgeous the greyhound - 7-1 winner

Indeed, Gorgeous is likely to

remain in the limelight for

some time to come because the

game show plans to chart her

progress over the next nine

"It is a truly innovative piece

Saturdays at different tracks.

of TV and greyhound racing has

done well to secure some

precious prime-time exposure,"

said Bob Betts writing in The

Sporting Life, the punter's bible.

Lottery show a tax-free £2,160. She likes being a film star." Her victory was greeted with incredulity by the show's host, comedian Patrick Kielty, and those connected with Gorgeous.

"Nobody expected her to win," said Jenni Marsh, the dog's owner. "She certainly didn't have a very good preparation, what with going up and down to the television studios for several days before the race. But on the night she felt right.

World of Sport, greyhound rac-ing is now lucky to get any air time on the main channels. The impact of the lottery has heightened the industry's plight, leading to falling attendances and dwindling turnover at dog tracks up and down the coun-

try and forcing some to close. And another blow could be delivered on Wednesday week when Camelot, the National Lottery organiser, launches a televised midweek draw with a guaranteed £10m jackpot.

In the short term, Gorgeous could prove the surprise package that comes to greyhound racing's rescue. But punters hoping to scoop a lottery-style windfall on her next outing are likely to be disappointed.

"One thing is for sure." said Mike Dillon of Ladbroke, Britain's biggest bookmaker. "Gorgeous will not be 7-1 next week. The world and his wife will want to be on her."



The hard drive can quickly be backed up onto a quality and specifications you would

expect from a state of the art notebook PC including Pentium 133 MHz processor, 135 GB HDD, slots with ZV port and CD-ROM drive. To find out more about the world's first multimedia notebook with PD drive, and its sister model the CF-61 with an 8x CD-ROM drive and 150 MHz processor, call



Age 50, Labour, shadow home secretary, NUS president 1969-71. When he was elected it was

considered a major breakthrough for the radical student left. Became MP for Blackburn in 1979 Defending a majority of 7,027, he is now better known as a hardliner on law and order.



Age 30, Labour, NUS president 1990-92. Full-time official of the Fabian Society and openly gay candidate standing against Michael Portillo, the defence secretary, in Enfield Southqute. A local boy made good, the Oxford University graduate must overturn a 16,000



Age 37, Labour, NUS president 1984-86. As a student politician he led the battle against then education secretary Reith Joseph's fight to impose tuition fees. Works as head of communications for the GMB trade union. He is fighting a three-way marginal in the new seat of Oldham East and Saddleworth.



Age 29, Labour, NUS president 1992-94. Her greatest moment was her fight with John Patten, then education secretary, over the Education Bill in 1994, when the union was in danger of being closed down. A political lobbyist, she is standing in her home town of Rochdale, a Lib Dem marginal.

Student firebrands come of age NUS presidents, holding the

lan Burreli

The race is on to become the first student leader to take a seat in parliament since Jack Straw, the shadow home secretary, 18 years ago.

Five former NUS presidents are running for election for Labour. The increase in the parliamentary aspirations of NUS presidents is seen as a result of Labour taking control of student politics after throwing off the far left in the early 1980s. One candidate said they were now "coming of age".

Yet while Labour continues life-long political enemies.

is a former Tory student leader who probably stands the best chance of being elected.

John Bercow, 34, is defending a 19,791 majority in Buckingham. He has risen through the Tory ranks after being chairman of the Federation of Conservative Students in its traumatic final years when, beset by feuding, it was dissolved and abolished by the then party chairman Lord Tebbit.

He has maintained contact with most of his Labour student adversaries who he regards as

people but I don't expect to convert them," he said. "You have to confront and defeat them. It's a war of attrition."

Of the former presidents, Lorna Fitzsimons is in the best position to follow Mr Straw into Westminster. Contesting a seat in her home town of Rochdale, she has been helped by boundary changes which have cut the Liberal Democrat majority to a couple of hundred.

Ms Fitzsimons, 29, NUS president from 1992-94, is a seat, is Stephen Twigg, NUS Labour candidates has been Blairite now working as a lob-president from 1990-92, an elected to the NUS presidency.

"It is very possible to have byist in order to gain a better un-civilised debates with these derstanding of the private secderstanding of the private sec-tor. She said the NUS leaders standing for parliament shared a common heritage. "We are Kinnock babies," she said. "None of us are right-wing but we are all modernisers."

She said that while past NUS presidents sought to influence society through law. journalism or pressure groups. there was now a consensus that change could best be brought about through parliament.

Fighting a much tougher

openly gay candidate, standing against Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence secretary, in Enfield Southgate. Mr Twigg, 30, said the former An Enfield boy, he will need student leaders could bring a more than local knowledge to

overturn a 16,000 majority.
Mr Twigg believes Labour is
enjoying the fruits of the shakeup in left-wing student politics in 1980 and 1981, until when extreme-left students had dominated the national union. Then Labour decided to break from the Broad Left alliance and since 1982 a succession of

coming of age of those Labour presidents of the NUS," he

vital injection of youth into Westminster: "There is such a problem with young people's disenchantment with politics and particularly party politics." Mr Straw entered parliament in 1979. Few other Labour MPs have since cut their polit-

ical teeth in student politics but

title from 1975-77, is standing for parliament for the first time in Norwich South, where he defends a Labour majority of Jim Murphy, NUS president

1994-96, faces a more difficult challenge, overcoming a Tory majority of 11,688 in the Scottish constituency of Eastwood. But Phil Woolas, 37, presi-

dent of the NUS from 1984-86 and now head of communications for the GMB trade union, is fighting a three-way marginthat is set to change. is fighting a three-way margin-Charles Clarke, 46, who preceded the new wave of Labour Oldham East and Saddleworth.

distinguished himself by leading the fight against the fight of the Secretary of State for Education, Keith Joseph, to impose tuition fees on students.

For the Liberal Democrats, embit Opik, former president of Bristol University and member of the NUS national executive, is their best hope of a student leader turning MP.

Mr Opik is defending a 5,209 Liberal Democrat majority in Montgomeryshire, because Alex Carlile, QC. the current MP, wants to spend more time

Clarke puts his money on delay in single currency

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said yesterday that he would bet against the European single currency being launched on target at the

BBC television's Frost on Sunday:
"He has to say that, doesn't he?"

But Mr Clarke did not rule out the possibility of a 1999 launch, adding: "I'll have a bet with Yves, and he might win his bet. It's just that we've said it's

sioner Yves de Silguy had said not impossible that they'll be the currency would start on time, the Chancellor said on hope the commissioner would agree they shouldn't go ahead on 1 January 1999 if countries are not genuinely convergent and they're taking any risks by

going ahead." An ICM poll carried out for tonight's BBC Panorama pro-

questioned were opposed to a single currency, 65 per cent felt they were poorly informed.

And of per cent said they did not understand the meaning of "convergence criteria" - the economic performance measures that ministers will use to MPs. Writing in a Sunday news-

gramme shows that while a majudge whether countries are jority, 54 per cent, of those strong enough to withstand the judge whether countries are pressures of single currency dis-

> The political manoeuvres continued yesterday, with former Europe minister Tristan Garel-Jones arguing there was a crossparty majority of pro-European

that the minority of anti-Euro- ence the kind of Europe we we'll have to confront at some peans have been able to dominate the debate because the majority have been divided by

party considerations. "The antis will squeal like stuck pigs at this ... the anti-Eu-

Mr Clarke also repudiated a suggestion that John Major was opposed to the single currency. following an interview with the New Yorker magazine in which he ropean tone of the debate in said the loss of control over in- keep the options open."

paper he said: "What has hap- Britain is undermining our abil- terest rates was "an argument pened over the past few years is ity to campaign for and influ- for never going in, and it's one

Mr Clarke said: "If what you're suggesting is that the Prime Minister is arguing those reasons for never joining, the Prime Minister negotiated ... to

"One low rate loan cleared all my Christmas debts. "



power yourself with a Mercantile Credit Loan

f you want to clear credit cards, store cards or an overdraft, an unsecured loan from Mercantile Credit is the ideal answer.

AMOUNT OF	MONTHLY REPAYMENT BY TERM				
LOAN	24 WITHS	36 MTHS	EN MURZ	APR	
£ 6,000	290.71	207.77	142.50	15.9%	
210.000	476.20	337.74	228.38	13.9%	

You pay just one fixed monthly amount at our new low rates whether you borrow £500 or £15,000.

You can spread the loan over up to five years if you want.

We're open every day from 7am to midnight and we guarantee a quick decision.

If you're over 25, in regular employment and have an annual income of £10,000 or more, call us free now.

> MERCANTILE CREDIT

(Send completed coupon to Mercamille Credi Crawley, West Sussex RH10 2BR, No stam	required.)
Name	4522
Address	
Dantanda " "	

PHONE FOR A FAST LOAN - QUOTING REF 4522



THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE YOU'LL NOTICE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR MEMORY AND THE SYSTEM MANUFACTURER'S

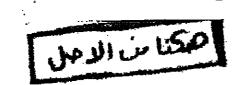
🎍 li's a little-known fact. Kingston" m	It's a little-known fact. Kingston" memory has exactly the					
Same components, technology, and	specifications as the	Michigater				
isome components, technology, and leading workstation manufacturer	•					
ry. Yet at costs up to 50% less. Maybe						
why more and more computing	hoston	MENOPY				
monals are choosing Kingston, the	Plugaria	100				

world's leading manufacturer of memory. Our engineers customise the

ind IBM: And just to prove how confident we are in our memory, we give it a lifetime warranty. To find out the name of a Kingston's value suided reseller call Kingston Technology

on 0800 006 006. You'll find that our memo

. If you would like a K	Inguian Froduct List, simply camplete and fax took to 1019	732) 736811. We'll do the new
Complete	Address	
Nex	for ode	Tophin Cooler Fin Variety
Ганран	Number of Pills meaded or company	No mondate
For mary safarmarian cal	I as un OHOO OOR OOD TOTAL	Manual Ma





The first area of







Happy clappy: Students getting into the swing at yesterday's inaugural session at Jacksons Lane Community Centre

Hallelujah! Singers spread the gospel

Gospel singing, always associated with black American religious music, is now being taken up by secular white men and women in Britain, eager to share in the exhilaration and community spirit that the singing brings. Lessons for what has been

traditionally church and spiritual music are being sold almost in the terminology of aerobics classes. A 10-week course which started yesterday at the Jacksons Lane Community Centre in Highgate, north London. proclaimed in its advertisements: "Enjoy the

exhilaration . . . breath control, gaspel harmonisations, vocal technique and projection . . . join this soulful, melodic. funky and inspiring session."

Tutor Delrio Levale stresses that he wants students who do not come background to enjoy the music and celebrate a positive

message.

Mr Levale grew up singing gospel in a black gospel church in London, affiliated to an American church. He was then part of The Inspirational Choir, a gospel outfit that sang on a record by the group Madness called The Wings Of A Dove". Now he runs the first gospel singing classes to be accredited as an examination

"I've long felt that there's a need to bring it out of the church," said Mr Levale. environment. "For a start, the gospel is supposed to be taken out of the church. But this is not a religious class. It's a music

class. On the social level it's an enjoyable free for all. On the singing level it is based on new breathing techniques. And there is a spontaneous live feel, and experience of what it is like to be in a gospel choir with the clapping, the

who wanted to take up a singing course and had never done any gospel singing before. "I believe in God but I wouldn't say I was

religious," she said.
"The point of this is that it's so positive and soulful it puts you on a natural high. The gospel music took hold of me because of the power in it. It must have been lovely to have grown up in the atmosphere of a black gospel

"The class has all occupations, nurses, clerical workers, students. And it has black, white, Greek, Jewish, a 50-year-old and a nine-yearold, all clapping their hands and singing. It's a great atmosphere.

"And the words we sing as if you should go astray you can always come back home are spiritual, but not too in-your-face religious."

of age Crime Bill faces new onslaught in Lords

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

The latest rebellion against the Home Secretary's law and order programme will get underway tonight during the Lords' Second Reading of the Bill to introduce mandatory tougher sentences.

House of Lords convention by refusing to give Michael Howard's Crime (Sentences) Bill its Second Reading, But the measure is expected to come ment to expand on criticisms he under heavy cross-party attack. made in a television interview

comes a week after the double for judges to retain the right to defeat inflicted by the Lords on the Police Bill in the face of the Government's refusal to agree to prior judicial authorisation of bugging on private property.

The Bill proposes mandato-

ry minimum jail terms of three years for adult, third-time burglars, seven years for adult dealers in class-A drugs and indeterminate life sentences for second-time violent or sexual offenders. Critics of the measure have included former Conservative Home Secretaries Douglas Hurd and Kenneth Baker and a list of judicial figures.

The line-up of speakers in today's debate will include the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham. Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, former Master of the Rolls Lord Donaldson, Lord Hope of Craighead, the Scottish law lord and the former law lord Lord Ackner. At the committee stage, opponents will seek to in-

lected from seaside resorts, it

A huge beach clean-up op-eration collected 17.5 tonnes of

rubbish from 203 stretches of

was disclosed today.

judges not to impose mandatory sentences. Judges have warned of the futility of imprisoning for seven years inadequate drug addicts who sell small quantities of drugs to fund their own habits. Others oppose the measure as an unjustified interference by the executive to the Peers are not likely to flout judiciary. Lord Bingham, who as Lord Chief Justice ranks as the most senior legal peer, is expected to use his first speech in the chamber since his appoint-The expected onslaught in the autumn when he called

> He pointed out that the Bill's provision for a judge to depart from a mandatory sentence where there were "exceptional" circumstances did not meet critics' concerns "at all", because the expression had been construed narrowly.

Further controversy is in prospect over Mr Howard's plan to introduce "honesty in sentencing", by making prison-ers serve the actual sentence imposed by the court.

Penal experts have warned that this would cost £30m and require two new jails in addition to those already in prospect.

Mr Howard also begins battle today with a challenge before five law lords to last July's Court of Appeal ruling that he was wrong to order the boys who killed the toddler James Bulger to serve a minimum 15year jail term.

chine, a Russian salt-pot and an

aerosol can from Israel. Holi-

daymakers and other visitors were responsible for dropping more than 18,000 crisp and

sweet packets, more than 8,000

drink cans and nearly 10,000 cig-

But the Beachwatch '96 clean-up, organised by the Reader's Digest and the Marine Conservation Society, did show

that beaches were becoming

An average of 1,482 items of debris per kilometre were gathered from the 203 beaches, compared with 1,636 per km from 196 coastal stretches in the

After tourism, shipping was

the next worst poliuter - blamed

for 17.4 per cent of debris, in-cluding nearly 27,000 lengths of rope and cord – followed by sewage-related debris, including

more than 30,000 cotton buds

and 6,000 sanitary products. The 3,300 clean-up volunteers

also collected more than 4,500 lengths of fishing line that can

have to change attitudes to-

wards litter and encourage individual responsibility in today's

entangle and kill wildlife. A spokesman for the Marine Conservation Society said: "We

throwaway society.

slightly less polluted.

previous clean-up.

arette ends.

Tourists blamed for

bulk of beach debris

Tourists are the biggest beach polluters, accounting for more than a fifth of the rubbish col-

CLUB MED OR VERSAILLES.

Nicole is in a dilemma. Two stunning models are waiting beneath her balcony - and she has to choose one of them.

It won't be easy. After all, both the Clio Versailles and Clio Club Med special editions share the refined contours of the new style Clio.

Both have tinted glass, a tilt-and-slide sunroof and a stereo radio/cassette with



detachable fascia. And both offer a choice of 3 or 5 door versions. What's more, thanks to an all-new

1.2 litre 60 bhp D.I.E.T. engine and a 5-speed gearbox, Nicole will love driving either car. (Thanks to a computer padlock engine immobiliser, no-one else will get the chance.)

HOW WILL NICOLE DECIDE?

Papa is no help. Now he knows both models have front seat belt pretensioners, side impact protection and driver's airbag (optional on the Versailles), he's happy whatever his daughter decides.

They can't be split on value either. Both cost astonishingly little for their equipment levels, with Versailles prices starting at just £7,895 on the road.

No, Nicole will just have to find another way of deciding. Any ideas?

For more information on the Clio Versailles and Clio Club Med, call free on 0800 52 51 50.

	0.00/	£99 deposit*				
TYPICAL EXAMPLE	9.9% apr	CLIO VERSABLES 1.2 3dr	CLIO CLUB MED 1.2 3dr			
Cash Price inc.	Cash Price inc. on the road costs†		£8,940.00			
Deposit		£99.00	£99.00			
Monthly Repayments		£193.60 ×48	£219.55 x48			
Total Ca	edit Price	£9,491.80**	£10,737.40**			

DEPOSIT & FREE INSURANCE*

group to peets accord 17.5% and had helperhapp croups which colors colors to be come, square para and by 20 February 1997. Cap Hornatius 1.2 5-0 48,345, Cash Hed 1.2 5-0 49,390, Mason £10,640. We gelands by 20 February 1997. Call Marsinis 1.2 5-0 16.2006, Later Med 1.4 700 columns 1.500, Marsin by aged believes 17 75 and hold a current OF, or inth Olerchorn ANNAULT CIFC)







П

RAI

The cleverest doll in Britain teaches doctors their job

Louise Jury

It has a pulse and blood pressure and breathes exactly like a human. Everything bar the unconvincing plastic body is as life-like as modern technology can make it.

Today, Sir Kenneth Calman, the chief medical adviser, will unveil Britain's first "human patient simulator" at the newly formed Bristol Medical Simulation Centre. A new era in medical training will begin.
The aim of the centre, which will

be one of the most advanced in the world, is to improve training for doctors, anaesthetists, paramedics and the emergency services by simulat-ing real-life crises.

At a cost of almost £1m, it is a venture funded by the Special Trustees for the United Bristol Hospitals, a charitable foundation, with the United Bristol Healthcare Trust (UBHT) and the University of Bristol.

Professor Cedric Prys-Roberts, the president of the Royal College of Anaesthetists who also works in Bristol, said: "The potential is very exciting. All of us – for any one of us could be a patient tomorrow – would be immensely reassured to know that the professionals caring for us have actually rehearsed the particular incident which could happen

The centre has a full mock operating theatre with the "living" man-nequin, which can be resuscitated like a human and ordinary medical equipment can be used on it. The centre can also be transformed into a simulation intensive-care unit or even a mock road accident site.



Photograph: Tom Pilston in the operating theatre or on the In training: Doctors rehearsing their operating techniques on the pulsing, breathing dummy patient at the £1m Bristol Medical Simulation Centre, which opens today

be set up to recreate rare med- idea. But if the model became ical crises which a doctor or anaesthetist might see only once in a lifetime.

Dr David Wilkins, the university's consultant lecturer in anaesthetics who will use the centre for teaching, said that he Most importantly, the centre can was wary of over-selling the

widely used, it could signifi-cantly improve training for doctors at a time when the cuts in junior doctors' hours were reducing the amount of faceto-face time they could spend with real patients.

"More and more things will

other than being in an actual operating theatre." Dr Wilkins The idea stemmed from research carried out in the Unit-

have to be imparted by means

now very advanced for air-lines, Dr Wilkins said that only the peace dividend of the end of the Cold War had encouraged manufacturers to explore the possibilities for medicine. ed States modelled on crisis management practices and Two years ago, the Royal simulators used in the airline College of Anaesthetists sent

industry. While these were Dr Wilkins and a colleague to investigate developments in the US. They returned with a proposal to bring the best of American practice together in

> Dr Wilkins and Professor Prys-Roberts were aware that manufacturers have already the city's Special Trustees expressed interest in using it.

might have the capital funds to back such a project, and the agreed to do so.

The centre will have to be self-financing. But bodies in-cluding the Avon Ambulance Trust and medical equipment

Dr Wilkins said it would be difficult to prove that the centre could cut the likelihood of medical disasters. But with the number of legal actions against the National Health Service rising, the price of training, though expensive, might prove cheaper than negligence pay-outs.

GPs sound alarm over supermarket surgeries

Colin Brown

Thousands of family doctors are being urged today to campaign against the Government's plans to allow private companies such the first step towards the prias supermarkets to employ GPs in their own surgeries in shop-

ation, which represents Britain's vate firms to use GPs to pro-36,000 doctors, in effect are ready to declare war on the herald the introduction of "dis-Government in the general ease packages", in which comelection. They are preparing to panies are permitted to

three main parties about their views on the Government's plan, and they will be warning that if it goes ahead, it will be the BMA, are due to meet the BMA are due to meet the BMA are due to meet the BMA. vatisation of primary care ser-

The British Medical Associ- Primary Care Bill will allow pri-

Stephen Dorrell, Secretary of State for Health, on Wednesday to appeal for the Government to withdraw the clause from the The doctors fear the NHS Bill allowing private firms to hire

"This is the commercialisation of the family doctor service and it will undoubtedly make privatisation of the service that

canvass every candidate of the prescribe particular treatments. much easier," said Dr Bogle. Dr Ian Bogle, chairman of the "This proposal is a significant

Any intrusion of this sort by their GPs to be employed by the the private sector threatens to distort the arministration of this sort by their GPs to be employed by the commercial sector." distort the quality of care re-ceived by patients because of the inevitable conflict of interest between the aims of the NHS and the commercial sector's allegiance to shareholders. GPs must remain the patients' ad-

dom in the surgery is bad for paprivate firms to employ GPs is

public and patients really want what we are doing is deregula-

The BMA is stepping up its campaign after emerging empty handed from a meeting with Department of Health officials last week. However, sources close to Mr Dorrell last night ruled out a government revocate and any move that treat. The Health Secretary be-

of crucial importance to the Bill. tory. It's not a political totem. but these proposals have been worked up after consultation. and there are safeguards written into the Bill." said a minis-

terial source. Companies which have expressed an interest in running surgeries with their own GPs include Unichem, the chemist

threatens to curtail GPs' free- lieves the measure allowing chain, and Asda, run by Archie Norman, who is now a Tory candidate. The Bill would allow "I cannot believe that the "The whole political thrust of them to bid for the right to open surgeries in pilot schemes for the expansion of primary care, but they would need the approval of haven't, and the White Paper on services, which would be provided free on the NHS.

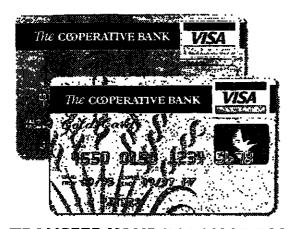
The claims by the BMA that

fiercely denied by ministers. "They have said this at previous general elections. All we can say is that we are not going to do that, our record shows we the local health authority before the NHS contained the getting the go-ahead from the Secretary of State. Patients strongest commitment to the ethos of the NHS that any mincould not be charged for their ister has ever made," said the ministerial source.

The Bill is due for its second reading in the Commons on 11

The COPERATIVE BANK

No annual fee. Ever.



TRANSFER YOUR BALANCE FOR

 UK's lowest balance transfer rate
 Save up to £150 in five months . No annual fee for life . New card purchases 21.7% APR variable · Keep your credit limit • No need to bank with us • Limited offer · Lines open 24 hours, 7 days a week · Call now.

0800 258 000

Labour town halls vow not to rock boat on council tax

David Walker

In a remarkable display of party loyalty, most Labour big city councils - including many former citadels of the New Left - are planning to keep 1997's council tax increases to a minimum in order to avoid the charge of Labour "profligacy" in the critical pre-election period.

Council tax will still rise by around 6 per cent - at least twice the rate of inflation. But this is less than even the Government expected on the basis of its November Budget, which implied council tax rises of 8 per next year and the year after.

cent this year and similar rises Cuts look likely to fall heavily on street repairs, home helps

Bridges

By Mario Petrucci

Do you remember the wooden truss bridge

where we made love, held ourselves

like a possible future to a shaft of light

the strand of hair stuck to your cheek

across these distances?

Merseyside L48 3JF.

that said it all, which now I case aside

on the Swiss border, spanned between conffer

and conifer, the mossed bank under its bulwark

and prismed it into a bright spectrum of kisses?

Or the lianas of dust sceping between the boards

when the boot-God thundered overhead, froze us

Mario Petrucci, who has worked as an organic farm-hand, a

university lecturer and an optoelectronic engineer, has just

published his first collection, *Shrapnel and Sheets*. A Poetry Book Society recommendation, it is available, price £6.95, from

Headland Publications at 38 York Avenue, West Kirby, Wirral,

In each other's arms? Or the smell of moss

on our jackets, the happy abandon of hands,

braries and education support services may also be hit, though Labour councils are making strenuous efforts to support the party's emphasis on education by protecting teachers'

jobs and classroom spending. The Government will today lay before Parliament its Revenue Support Grant orders for the financial year 1997-98. The squeeze on councils will tighten if the teachers' pay review body, due to report after the RSG orders are approved, recommends a education pay rise of more than the 2.8 per cent most councils have allocated.

But to avoid damage to Tony Blair's election campaign, Labour councils have promised Sir Jeremy Beecham, the chair-

DAILY POEM

and other social services. Li-man of the Local Government are taking it on the chin." Association, not to make too much of a fuss about the cuts they will inevitably have to make. Their watchword is the New Labour slogan adopted by Theresa Stewart, leader of Birmingham and once a left wing stalwart: "We must be realistic about the resources available." In Birmingham's case that looks as if it will mean 350 posts

being cut.
Solidly Labour Sheffield is probably typical. To keep the services it is providing this year going into 1997-98, it would need £12m more than the £415m government limit it has been set. But whereas in previous years, a senior official said. "there would have been a feast of shroud waving, this year they

Sheffield will be dirtier as a result: the cuts will fall on waste disposal and street cleaning. Birmingham is even consid-

ering selling off its stake in Birmingham International Airport in order to minimise its call

on council tax payers. It is a different picture in the shire counties, especially where no single party has overall control. Bedfordshire - where the Tories are the largest party but are outvoted by combinations of Labour and Liberal Democrat councillors - says it faces cuts of £15m and is thinking of putting through a 21 per cent increase in its council tax precept. Overall, the English counties may shed some 50,000 staff in

Green belt planned to encircle Durham

Stephen Goodwin Heritage Correspondent

The largest green belt in Britain for more than a decade could

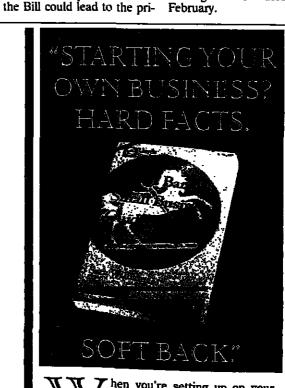
soon enclose the city of Durham - despite the misgivings of councillors who fear the impact on jobs. Conservationists yesterday

welcomed publication of a report they believe clinches a long campaign for a restricted area round the ancient university city. While other seats of learning.

such as Oxford, Cambridge and York, have their surrounding countryside protected, Durham has remained vulnerable because of an "old Labour" disdain for environmentalism. But new employment."

now an independent panel un-der a chairman appointed by John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, has shaken Durham County Council by recommending a green belt stretching right across the north of the county and totally enclosing the city.

The results of the panel's painstaking examination of the Co Durham structure plan were presented to a council committee yesterday. Don Robson, leader of the council, said the magnitude of the proposal would need a lot of thought and discussion. "We need to ensure that any uncertainty does not adversely affect efforts to attract



Then you're setting up on your own, you need all the information you can get your hands on. So, you'll be pleased to discover all the facts you need are now available in one softback book: the Lloyds Bank Small Business Guide. It's the handbook to starting a business and it's already sold over 1/2 a million copies.

There's more good news if you want to put your business plans into action now: the Guide normally costs £16 but it's yours FREE when you call 0345 00 33 77. Ask for your free copy today.

CALL 0345-00-33-77 NOW for details of the Lloyds Bank start un pading and your FREE Stiell Passing Stands. Local call charge free open for Appa Manual Process Thin - 2pm weekends. Prices white of June 1973. The offer is only apparatually to 118 contents.



THE THOROUGHBRED BANK



a gen

*STARTINGYO

When you just can't talk to anyone, talk to us.

Despair doesn't work nine to five.

Despair comes in the small hours of the night, or on Christmas Day. It comes at weekends, or when you're surrounded by people.

Samaritans work round the clock, every day of the year. When you pick up the phone, there'll be someone there to help pick up the pieces.

You won't be put on hold, or put through a grilling. And you won't be judged or talked down to.

Our number's in the phone book, or you can call our new national number on 0345 90 90 90. Every call is confidential. We'll be there to talk to you.

The Samaritans. We'll go through it with you.

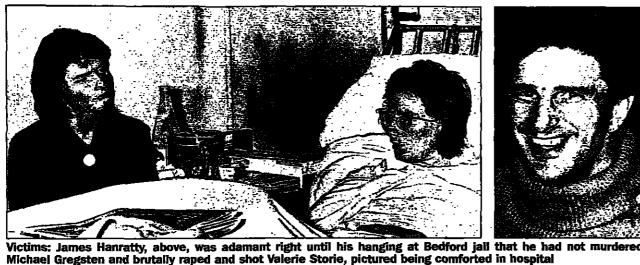
A Registered Charity funded by voluntary donations.

http://www.compulink.co.uk/~careware/samaritans/

This is my son

'I'm dying tomorrow, please clear my name,

James Hanratty was hanged for what was dubbed the crime of the century. But he didn't do it, writes Jason Benetto



ratty, a 25-year-old petty bur- announce that he is to refer the glar, was hanged - one of the last three people to go to the gallows in Britain.

His alleged crime was to have shot dead a married man in cold blood and then raped his lover before shooting her repeatedly, paralysing her from the waist down.

The evidence presented at Hanratty's trial would almost certainly fail to secure a conviction in a court today. The case against him was at best flimsy, based largely on his identification by the crippled lover, who admitted she only saw him for a few seconds and failed to pick him out on the first police identity parade.

of campaigning by Hanratty's family and supporters it is only now that the British justice system seems ready to admit it made a mistake.

Home Office officials are understood to have concluded that Hanratty was innocent. Michael Howard, the Home

_ la:

IR

RAI rish a bi

 \mathbf{E}_{I}

EDI VRI epb sme ed s ed s 66.4

DA' Rey and ty cen who air air are m.

case to the Court of Appeal, where the conviction is expected to be quashed.

But Hanratty's supporters will want to know why it has taken so long? Clearly, the wheels of justice often move very slow-ly. However, a less benign explanation could be that the exposure of one of the country's most infamous executions as a sham is a grave embarrassment and yet another plank in the

disturbing question: if Hanratty did not commit the murder,

The killing shocked a nation not used to apparently random murders and acts of unspeakable brutality and cruelty.

The victims were Michael Gregsten, 36, a married man whose regular infidelities were well known to his wife - and his mistress Valerie Storie, 22. The couple had meet at the Government's Road Research Lab-

was his laboratory assistant.

On the evening of 22 Au-

6 The killing shocked a nation not

used to random murders and acts

of unspeakable brutality 9

The posthumous pardon of gust. 1961, they were together in

On 4 April 1962 James Han- Secretary, is shortly expected to Hanratty would also raise the Mr Gregsten's Morris Minor car when there was a sharp tap on the window. Gregsten wound it down to face a revolver. "This is a hold-up," announced the smartly dressed stranger. "I am a desperate man." He then climbed in and ordered Mr Gregsten to drive for about 60 miles through Slough and across the suburbs of north-west London before coming to a halt at a lay-by on the A6 near Bedford, known as Deadman's

> At the end of the two hour trip, he asked Mr Gregsten to pass him a duffle bag. As he did so, he was killed with two shots from the revolver. The murderer then raped the woman on the back seat of the vehicle before shooting Miss Storie repeatedly at close range. paralysing her for life. Afterwards, he fled in the car.

oratory, near Slough, where he was a research scientist and she Throughout her six-hour ordeal Miss Storie only once saw the killer clearly - when his face The lovers used to renwas illuminated by the headdezvous at a cornfield at Taplow. near Maidenhead, in Berkshire. lights of a passing car.

After Hanratty's arrest in Blackpool following his "identification" by Mr Gregsten's wife Janet, further investigations discovered two .38 cartridge cases from the gun used in the murder in room 24 of the Vienna Hotel in London, where the accused man had stayed under the false name of James

In the first identity parade Miss Storie did not pick Hanratty. At the second, she made each suspect repeat the sentence spoken by the killer: "Be oulet, will you, I am thinking." Like the murderer. Hanratty pronounced thinking "finking" After 20 minutes Hanratty was chosen by Miss Storie, who

was confined to a wheel chair. Documents released later showed that Miss Storie admitted:"I may not be able to pick him out. My memory of this man is fading". In addition, two earlier Identikit pictures she helped draw up did not match Hanratty.

Additional evidence against Hanratty was given by Charles France, a criminal, who committed suicide two weeks before the hanging. But it was the vital identification evidence given by Miss Storic that swayed the jury, who after nine-and-half hours delivered a guilty verdict.

On the morning of his execution at Bedford jail, Hanratty wrote to his family, insisting he was innocent and asking them to clear his name. His brother, Michael Hanratty, 58, said: "The day before Jimmy was hanged he said: 'I'm dying tomorrow but I'm innocent. Clear my name. This is what we need to be able to do."

The campaign has gone on ever since and during the past 35 years a wealth of evidence has emerged which supports the claim that an innocent man was wrongly executed.

One of the most implausible and incredible parts of the case against Hanratty is the acceptance that a town-dwelling bitpart criminal should stalk a couple to a cornfield in Berkshire to carry out a random

There was also not a shred of forensic evidence found in the vehicle to link Hanratty.

cally. Alphon could hardly drive, but Hanratty was experienced. Alphon also had a striking likeness to the Identikit picture produced immediately

after the attack. In addition, he was seen at the pub where the two lovers met on the night they were ab-ducted. He has been reported as repeatedly admitting his guilt, claiming he was paid £5,000 to break up the relationship between Gregsten and

Storie. Alphon, 66, made an alleged "confession" in Paris several years later saying that he was asked by someone close to Gregsten's family to frighten the couple. However, speaking to the Independent three days ago he denied that he had every admitted to the killing and insisted that Hanratty was guilty. He said that Hanratty had been hired by Mrs Gregsten to break up the relationship. "I don't have to prove my innocence, he added. Reports of his alleged confessions had been distorted.

Mrs Gregsten fiercely denied any involvement in a plot during a series of interviews with Paul Foot shortly before her death in January 1995. But she did admit that she was no longer convinced of Hanratty's guilt, pointing instead to Peter Alphon.

The growing doubts and pressure from campaigners and family – who have remained determined even since the death of James Hanratty Snr who protested defiantly outside the House of Commons - lead to a fresh police inquiry into the case. Detective Superintendent Roger Matthews, of Scotland Yard, who completed his report last year after an 18-month investigation is understood to have concluded that Hanratty was wrongly hanged.

He believes that it is doubtful that an urban car thief would be in the countryside. Instead, it was probably a pre-meditated plan by someone hired to break up the relationship between Mr Gregsten and Miss Storie.

Geoffrey Bindman, the solicitor who has represented the Hanratty family for the past 25 years, said: "It's extremely difficult to persuade a government to reopen a case, although its become less hard because of some noticeable miscarriages of justice such as the Birmingham Six. For many years it was practically unthinkable."

But the combined weight of evidence, backed by the police inquiry, appears to have been enough for the authorities to finally concede that a grave miscarriage of justice took

JAMES HANRATTY numbered by the state for the A.6 murder. ELEVEN WITNESSES SWEAR HE WAS IN RHYL, 200 MILES AWAY WHEN THE CRIME WAS COMMITTED. I DEMAND A AND JUSTICE PUBLIC INQUIRY TO BE DONE TO BE DONE

Defiant: James Hanratty Snr protested regularly outside the House of Parliament, handing out leaflets to passers by, in a bid to clear his convicted son's name over the crime that shocked a nation

FOR PEOPLE OVER 50 IS

argument against capital punishment. Indeed, the

Scotland Yard detective who re-

investigated the case is under-

stood to have reversed his

pro-hanging stance as a conse-

HOSPITAL WAITING LISTS



SAGA Hospital Care ensures you will never have to wait long for treatment

ueuing for an NHS operation, whether it is major or minor, is a dispiriting experience. But with SAGA's Hospital Care plan, developed exclusively for people aged 50 and over, waiting for months (even years) for treatment is eliminated.

This economical private medical scheme provides cover for immediate treatment for 12 of the most commonly suffered complaints, such as hip replacement and hernia. For other conditions, you should never have to wait longer than six weeks for hospital treatment after seeing your specialist.

If the NHS cannot admit you within this period, you may automatically go into hospital as a private patient, with all medical expenses paid.*

*Subject to policy conditions †Limbs do apply to some out-patient treatments

✓ Immediate treatment for 12 of the most commonly suffered complaints ✓ Early admission for all other

operations where the NHS cannot admit you within six weeks ✓ Full, unlimited cover for

all private in-patient charges*† ✓ Guaranteed acceptance from age 50 with no upper age limit and

no medical required ✓ Medical conditions that occurred before you join may

be covered after 2 years. ✓ Automatic tax relief on premiums if you are aged 60 or over

✓ FREE luggage set when you enrol SAGA Hospital Care is underwritten by Prime Health

For a free quotation and information pack, phone our dedicated Customer Service Team at Prime Health



Hanraty?, the finger of guilt has long pointed at Peter Alphon, the man originally arrested for the murder, but later released.

Hanratty also had a good al-

ibi. At first he said he had been

in Liverpool, but refused to

name his friends. Extraordi-

narily, he changed his statement

to say that he had stayed in a

bed and breakfast house in

Rhyl, North Wales - 250 miles

from the scene of the crime.

Again no witnesses were pro-

vided, but between 1966 and

1971 fourteen people came for-

For many campaigners, in-cluding the journalist Paul Foot, author of the book Who killed

6 Before dying,

Janet Gregsten

admitted she

was no longer

convinced of

his guilt 9

ward to support his story.

Alphon, a former door-todoor salesman had stayed at the Vienna Hotel, where the bullet cases were found, the night before Hanratty. Alphon, who pronounced "th" as "f" when excited, went missing on the night of the murder.

After the killing, Gregsten's Morris Minor was driven for several hours. Many witnesses said it was being driven errati-

British Gas Trading Limited. Standard Supplier Licence. Condition 3. Gas Prices.

British Gas Trading Limited hereby gives notice that in accordance with Condition 3 of its Supplier Licence it has adjusted its tariff rates for supplies in the categories above and below 73,200 kWh per annum (2,500 therms p.a.) due to the introduction of temperature and pressure conversion. These new rates apply to gas used after 1st February 1997. The rates are contained in the new Schedule of Charges which replaces that published on 29th February 1996.

Copies are available on request on 0500 43 44 45.

British Gas

صكان الامل

international

Calls for

reform

increase

Turkish

tension

In a sign of rising political ten-sions in Turkey, both the Is-

lamist-led government and

military leaders have reacted fu-riously to a proposal from some of the country's leading private

businessmen for sweeping de-

mocratic reforms. "Cheap po-

litical heroism" was the derisive phrase used by one military of-ticer to describe the report pre-

sented to parliament last week

by the Turkish Association of In-

Tony Barber Europe Editor

Anarchy stalks Albanian cities as cheated investors vent fury in orgy of destruction

Government unable to maintain order after collapse of pyramid schemes, writes Andrew Gumbel

Albania was languishing on the brink of total anarchy last night as tens of thousands of people who had been cheated out of their life-savings took to the streets, tore up paving stones. hattled with riot police, ran-sacked public buildings and started fires, including one that raged through the country's biggest petrochemical complex. The wave of popular anger,

triggered by the collapse of three of Albania's so-called pyramid investment schemes and fuelled over the past few days by a swelling tide of public protest, seemed to know no bounds. The efforts of President Sali Berisha and his government to bring the country to order had little or no effect.



Tritan Shehu: Peited with rocks by the crowd

"We shall overthrow he government today at allcosts," shouted one demonstraor at a rally organised by the oposition at a football stadium in te capital, Tirana. In towns ari cities across the land, protester clamoured for the return c their money and the immedice resignation of the government.

Between 20,000 and 0,000 people turned up to the irana rally - a very large shoung in a country gripped by fearf gov-ernment repression. The then clashed with police as the tried to march from the stadim to Skanderbeg Square i the Lushnje resumed with the ran-

centre of the city. For two hours there were pitched hattles as the demonstrators burked stones and pieces of marble paving from the steps of the Palace of Culture. When they attempted to storm parliament, where deputies were meeting in emergency session, they were repulsed by water-cannon and gunshots fired into the air. There were even more ex-

traordinary scenes over the weekend in Lushnje, a small town about 60 miles south of the capital where thousands of people clamoured for the release of Rapush Xhaferi, the organiser of one of the failed pyramid schemes who was arrested last week in an ill-fated attempt to appease the public. Believing that the release of

Mr Xhaferi, who comes from Lushnje, would be the answer to their problems, the rioters set fire to the town hall, smashed the windows of a state-owned bank, gathered up as many documents as they could find and burned them in the main square. They also set up barricades of burning tyres on Albania's only north-south On Saturday afternoon Al-

bania's Foreign Minister Tritan Shehu, the second most powerful man in the country after President Berisha, decided to fly into Lushnje by helicopter to try and calm things down. But as soon as he arrived he was struck on the back of the neck by a flurry of stones, beaten up and dragged off to a changing-room in the local football stadium. At least 10 policemen were also

It is still not clear whether Mr Shehu was kidnapped or whether he hid himself to avoid a public lynching. But it was only several hours later, under the cover of darkness, that he managed to make his getaway and return to Tirana.

Yesterday the mayhem in



حيكذا من الاحل

Short-changed: Angry demonstrators carrying an injured protester past a cordon of riot police in Tirana's main square

sacking and burning of the law courts and the comprehensive trashing of the local office of the ruling Democratic Party. There were similar scenes in

Berat, a little further to the south, and in the port of Vlore, Albania's second city, where a crowd of 3,000 torched the town hall in defiance of serried ranks of riot police and a unit of army troops.

The attitude of the authorities has looked nothing short of tive rates of interest of about 10

blind panic, with President Berisha promising the repayment of all lost investments - a promise that nobody seems to fill the schemes' coffers. believe - and pledging to launch a full investigation into the financiers he once described as

pyramid schemes The worked rather like a chain letter, with unrealistically attrac-

investment experts but now

refers to as usurers and crimi-

per cent per month being maintained only as long as more and more investors come forward to

Popular in many parts of Eastern Europe since 1989, they are widely recognised as excellent covers for money-laundering and personal enrichment schemes by public officials and racketeers.

They also have a habit of collapsing all at once, leaving poor investors bereft of what little

hard currency they ever pospress widespread revulsion at the government as such, but

In Albania, the schemes and their collapse have been particularly brutal, partly because of the autocratic nature of the regime, which almost certainly approved of, and actively colluded in, them, and partly because of the extreme poverty of the population. Many people sold their houses and valuables

hundreds, or thousands, of dollars in the past few days say all they want is to find a new pyramid scheme in which to pour anin order to take part. The riots do not, however, ex-

dustrialists and Businessmen. Among the report's recommendations were more-effective protection of the civil rights of ethnic Kurds, shorter periods of

prison custody to prevent police torture and other human rights abuses, and the subjection of the military high command to defence ministry control. The businessmen also proposed the sholition of the national security council, a powerful institution which ensures the armed forces considerable influence over certain areas of govern-

Military officers, quoted anonymously in the Turkish press, dismissed the report's proposals as based on a "lack of knowledge" about the true state of affairs in Turkey. But liberal Turkish and foreign commentators said the businessmen had clearly touched a raw nerve.

The armed forces have seized power on three occasions since 1960, ostensibly to defend the modern secular republic against political enemies. The army has remained a powerful presence in the wings since 1983, when it last returned power to civilian politicians. It plays a particularly important role in determining policy in the civil war that has raged since 1984 in the mainly Kurdish south-east of Turkey.

The businessmen's report also attracted criticism from the Turkish government, a coalition of the Islamist Welfare Party and the centre-right True Path Party. The trade minister, Yalim Erez, said the report had been produced by "intellectuals who do not know the realities of this country".

However, the armed forces and the Islamists have not always seen eye to eye since Necmettin Erbakan, the Welhave found striking similarities fare Party leader, came to pow-between passages of Beyala's er last June as Turkey's first Islamist prime minister since the establishment of the secular republic in 1923. But, as far as the Kurdish war is concerned, Mr Erbakan, like his secular predecessors, has essentially left the army with a free hand to crack down on the rebels.

> The report was by no means the first such appeal for more humane treatment of Kurds and for a political rather than a military solution to the war. A similar report, commissioned by the Union of Chambers and Trade Bourses and published in 1995, said that support for the far-left Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) would diminish if the government tackled the grievances of ordinary Kurds. More than 21,000 people are estimated to have died in the war since 1984.

Prize battle strips Academy of all honour

Mary Dejevsky

It is hard to imagine what al-Française could possibly havin common. She is a winscre black woman writer frm French Cameroon in her thties with a certain iconoclasbent. The Academy is the seperpetuating and predomnantly male club of France. great and good which stand guard over France's scholarly tradition. But it was to Beyala that the Academy awarded last year's prize for the best novel. a work called, prophetically, say:

some, Lost Honours.
Now, both the Academy and Beyala are in the dock. They, for having put the weight of their authority behind a plagiarist. She, not just for plagiarism, but also for recidivsm.

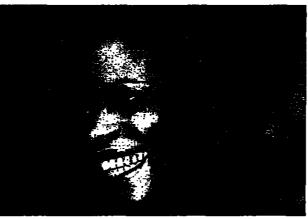
The first ispersions on Beyala's work vere cast by the

le Canard Enchainé, in early 1995, when passages from her book Little Prince of Belleville were compared with very sim-American writers, Howard Buten and Charles Williams, which had sold well in France.

Pierre Assouline, editor and director of the glossy, books monthly, Lire, took up the cudels. For him, Beyala's artistic htegrity, or lack of it, has beome something of a crusade. the calls it persecution. Last May, after months of bit-

tr allegations and counteraegations, the first victory unt to her detractors. n a lawsuit brought by

Hward Buten's French publifer, Beyala was found by the cert to have "partially counterited" his novel. She and her pulishers, Albin Michel, were orred to pay a total of 100,000 frees (£11,000) to Buten, his



Calixthe Beyala: 'Can no one who was born in a sharity town be fully recognised as a writer in Paris?"

Assouline, bore more resemblance to a seminar on comparative literature than a court of law. Under pressure from her publisher, it was said, Beyala decided not to appeal.

The case, according to Mr passages and episodes from assouline, bore more resemberals's work that appear to have been culled from other several works, including Alice Walker's novel, The Color Purple.

Spirit has added her voice to the accusations. At first, she told ed their choice by citing what Lire magazine, she did not want they called "a very French trato believe it. "But when I ex- dition from La Fontaine to of my book sprang out at me border between borrowing and from the mould that imprisoned

Although Calixthe Beyala did not formally contest the verdict of the court, she was forthright in defending herself outside it. She talked about "coincidence" and scenes halfremembered. She accused her detractors of spite and suggested she was being singled out for criticism because she was a woman and black.

After the court's judgment, however, there was general surprise that Bevala's most recent novel, Lost Honoras, was even nominated, let alone shortlisted, for last year's prestigious Academie Française prize. When it was pronounced the winner on 24 October, there was

principled. In Islamic tradition, the men accompany the dead to the cemetery while the women

wail their ritual farewells from

the balcony. But Moeen's eldest

sister Amira - a black-cloaked

lady in her eighties - hopped

down the stairs after his coffin

on the day of Moeen's final jour-ney, jumped nimbly into the pas-

senger seat of the hearse and

refused to budge. "Let anyone

nined the text, whole passages Proust" which had left the pastiche "poorly defined". "Everyone takes their inspiration from everyone else," was another defence.

Some of the judges defend-

Reviewing the selection process in the just-published. February issue of Lire, Pierre Assouline renewed his campaign. If this year's prize had to go to Albin Michel, he said - ailuding to the alleged "shareout" of prizes among the publishers, that publisher had

more than one entry.
"But," he went on, "for reasons that would seem not to have much to do with literature. it had to be Beyala and no one else" and he accused "certain members of the Academy" of using "all their talents and social graces" to win over the rest. Others talked about the

"susceptibility of some judges to female charms". Now Mr Assouline claims to

Photograph: AFP

rather an irrational desire by

people to fight for what they be-

lieve to be their right - the re-

turn of their money and the high

returns which it was supposed

Several people who have lost

winning novel and Ben Okri's The Famished Road'. She responded with charges of misog-yny. This weekend, though, she was stung into giving a long, rambling response which was published in the daily Figaro. Addressing the problem of

apparent borrowings from other works, she says her novels (10 so far) derive from the African "oral tradition" where existing ideas and phrases are repeated and embellished. She refers to herself as a "mere woman", accuses Mr Assouline of hounding "a poor black come from nowhere" and says her experience makes her wonder whether anyone "born in a shanty-town" can be "fully

recognised as a writer in Paris". There, for the moment, the

traslator and his French pub-Paule Constant, the French satirical, investgative weekly, Mr Assouline has since found author of a novel called White Justice holds death in the wings

Osseiran, he was ing - pale but smiling - on is bed in the American Univisity Hospital, exhausted afteanother blood transfusion fonis leukaemia. He knew he w dying but in-sisted on living e, asking about events in souern Lebanon, Bosnia, Alger and - far more important to m - turning up at the high cost to fulfil his role as a judge the Lebanese Third Appes hamber. We gave H some copies of

L'Express, L'oint, Paris Match his Frenchas better than his English - a left him to what was his fif and penultimate hospital vi before his final court appearce and his death. A smalather gruff man with old-hioned manners,

Moeen in for the courts. In a land wit - in the words of one loca:ademic - officials have in spast proved them-selves "fessors of corruption", has incorruptible. At the hei of the 1975-1990

COMPRS FOR BEGINNERS Cus for people with no knoge of computing at all Mades Persons, Syndated as Danisa, Five days \$225 **ERNET CLASSES** at 0171 937 8886

BEIRUT DAYS

civil war, he could be found walkin across the front line, un-der shill fire, from his home in west Beirut to the court chambert if the east. He refused a government-offered Mercedes, prefering his old Peugeot. For years, he declined a bodyguard. only accepting one in the last weeks of his life - provided the soldier never carried a gun. He even refused the small red badge on his registration plate that would have allowed him to ofertake traffic jams and parking restrictions. "In the courts lam a judge, but in the street I am an ordinary man, he

Defendants and governments alike found Moeen Osseiran a prickly character. When the cabinet expected a guilty verdict in the case of Yahyia Chammas. an MP accused on drug-related charges, Mocen Osseiran ordered a re-trial. When the Americans expected a conviction of two men accused of kidnapping the US Ambassador Melloy in 1976 - found murdered three days later - he freed both of them on the grounds that they were covered by a post-civil war amnesty, that they had not mur-

used to tell us.

In his last days, he was con-

sequent bomb explosion in Paris. Moeen was a canny man who knew his politics. When the anti-Syrian Phalangist militia leader Samir Geagea was put on trial for his life, charged with the brutal killing of his Christian rival Dany Chamoun, Moeen declined the court headshipbecause his workload was "too heavy". Friends say he believed

the real killer had died in a sub-

6 In the courts I am a judge, but in the street I am an ordinary man 🤊

that however guilty Geagea proved to be, the case was political. But when we turned up for press passes to the Geagea trial and found ourselves stymied by unhelpful court bureaucrats, Moeen scribbled a dered the ambassador and that tiny note and the same func-

tionaries, awed by his signature, added, are as tough as they are gave us permission in less than 30 seconds.

fronted by lawyers acting for a financial institution accused of fraud who knew that he was dying of leukaemia. Indeed, in one of his last appearances, Moeen could be seen, sitting in his red, white and black judge's robes, wiping away a nosebleed as his brain haemorrhaged.

But, as the lawyers tried to spin out their case, the judge in-creased the speed of the hearings. And a few days before he died, Moeen was able to declare the bank guilty. Maybe his father Mounir, a Shia Muslim prelate, had something to do with it. "I know I am going to die and my conscience is clear," the 62-year-old judge told his family in the two years after his leukaemia was discovered.

He refused to die in hospital - he had a phobia of being slotted into a refrigerated mortuary
- so he finally died in a coma in
his own bed in his faded, noisy, almost street-level apartment off Corniche Mazraa, a judge to the very end. His military bodyguard, still unarmed, came to pay its respects. President Elias Hrawi bestowed upon Moeen a posthumous Commander of the Order of the Cedar, a kind of Lebanese OBE.

The Osseirans, it should be

dare stop me from accompanying my brother to his burial place," she shouted at the astonished mourners. When the cortège arrived at the Zaatari mosque in Sidon not far from Mocen's beloved orchards at the village of Sarafand Amira and her younger sister
 Zeinab agreed to follow the
 Muslim custom of allowing only the men into the mosque for the final prayers over the body. But at the family plot on a tiny peninsula above the Mediterranean, Amira and Zeinah re-

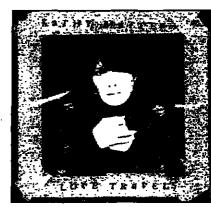
fused to be kept from the grave. Sheikh Abdul-Amir Kabalan insisted that they should return to their car but Amira muttered: "Sheikh or no Sheikh, I'm going to be here." And so she was, as one good man was laid to his eternal rest

beside the shell-splintered gravestone of his cleric father.

Robert Fisk



The Dougle MacLean Collection



Kathy Mattea · Love Travels

OUT NOW ON CD

Israeli police to investigate political graft case

Israeli police yesterday started an investigation into corruption and deal-making in the appointment of the attorney-general, which could bring down the

an accusation by the Channel jamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, nominated Roni Bar-

escape corruption charges. Mr Bar-On's appointment was greeted with astonishment and derision by the legal profession and senior judges, who forced him to resign after 12 hours. It was reported that two-At the heart of the scandal is thirds of the cabinet had never heard of Mr Bar-On, but it was One television station that Ben- the one third who knew him who voted against him.

Last week state-owned Israeli

Aryeh Deri, leader of Shas, a Knesset, who is on trial for corruption. In return Mr Deri promised to support the Hebron agreement, leading the scandal to be called the "Bar-On for He-

Mr Netanyahu and his government denied any such deal. The television reporter has yet to explain the source for her claims, but may be forced to do

bton" affair.

doubt the government wanted party with 10 members in the to get rid of the previous attorney-general and replace him by somebody more malleable. but it would be surprising if they made a specific agreement with Mr Bar-Òn.

In its seven months in office the government has proved accident-prone and Mr Netanyahu has made several bizarre appointments. His first choice as justice minister had to

Court. His office director was alleged to have a long record of making harassing calls to women. Other right-wing leaders are in trouble, such as Ehud Olmert, Mayor of Jerusalem,

who is on trial for fraud. Mr Netanyahu has accused Channel One of extreme bias

not worried. We will protect our sources, but will act within the confines of the law." Senior members of the gov-

ernment appear to lack confidence in what Mr Netanyahu's no future." kitchen cabinet - often compared to that around President Richard Nixon - might have got nightly news, said he was considered. "We will take this all the kind of bargain, I recommend about it. It turns out that his own to do for them."

unprecedented crime." Avigdor Kahalani, Internal Security Minister, said: "If the affair is in fact as it appears, there is no doubt that this government has

Mr Netanyahu himself called for a police investigation. But he has moved in the past few

attorney-general to allow a powas made after he promised to so by the police investigation. In withdraw, accused of making way," he said. "I'm not conto everyone involved to admit choice for the position of at
it and resign, because this is an
torney-general - an important
escape corruption charges.

Area Decider of Supreme and I'm it and resign, because this is an
torney-general - an important
torney-general terms there is little false statements to the Supreme cerned, I'm not scared and I'm it and resign, because this is an
torney-general - an important
torney-gen holds it acts like a special pros ecutor in the US - was Dan Avi Yitzhak, Mr Deri's lawyer, who

turned down the job.

There is no doubt that Mr. Netanyahu wanted an artorney-general he could control. but his political future may depend on whether he or anybody

On, an obscure party loyalist, as television said his appointment Moscow nervous as Chechens vote for new leader

Had you asked anyone in the snow-clad streets of Grozny one year ago if they would be going to the polls today to de-termine the leader of what is, in all but law, their own nation, they would have laughed

A year ago war, launched in late 1994 by Boris Yeltsin in a bid to crush Chechnya's independence, seemed doomed to grind on, adding noughts to the many thousands already on the death toll, while the rest of the world turned a blind eye.

Yet - six months after an unexpected peace deal - Chechens will today vote in the first round of an election to choose a leader from a list of 13 candidates, all of whom are separatists. Moscow is looking on in a state of nervousness, mindful that the final results could bring a disaster.

One of the two considered most likely to go through to the second round are Aslan Maskhadov, the former contender - refused to answer Chechen fighters' chief of staff, questions about the guerrilla who is seen by the Kremlin as a moderate. But the other is Shamil Basayev, the guerrilla regards as its most wanted

all the hallmarks of a genuine contest. Citizens of Grozny, once buried under rubble, have been engulfed by a tide of promotional literature, posters and

Every night Chechens have been settling down to watch hour after hour of election programmes, shot on shaky video cameras, on five channels.

All over Grozny the inhabitants of bombed out apartment blocks sit glued to unedited speeches, campaign rallies, discussion programmes. The city may have no running water, piles of fetid rubbish, no jobs, and precious few intact buildings, but it can at least lay claim to a highly educated

"We just want people to be able to chose," said Abdul Sinbarigov, a 31-

year-old Chechen **6** We will he sat in the shellscarred ninth floor apartment that is also the headquarters of AS, his two-man TV and radio station, (so named independent because of his initials.) After the Ausovereign

gust peace deal, vested \$70,000 (£42,000) in elec-

Šĸ

ner ich iore

tronic equipment, got a temporary broadcasting licence. and set about filling the airwaves with election-related programmes in the hope of persuading his countrymen to make the "right" choice. "If they don't, there won't be any more TV stations here, there will just be war." he remarks gloomily, as the sound of Rod Stewart's "You're The Star" boomed out from his radio sta-

tion in a nearby bedroom. The right choice, in his book, is Basayev. "He is able, pure and clean," he remarked, sitting beneath a sketch of a fanged and red-nosed Boris Yeltsin. References to Basavev's raid on a southern Russian town in which he seized more than 1,000 hostages, or his bank robberies, or aircraft hijacking, are waved away. "If you think he was a terrorist, then a million times more terrorist acts were

carried out by the Russians." It appears this sentiment is catching on. The 32-year-old

Russia's most wanted terrorist is among the candidates, writes **Phil Reeves**

Basayev, who has swapped his military fatigues for a sober grey coat, has proved a surprisingly

in Grozny

The several thousand Chechens who turned out on Saturday to hear him speak, surrounded by gunmen, in Grozny's bullet-strewn central square listened in rapt silence, interrupted only by a rumble of laughter. Basayev is fond of

His rise is causing concern among his opponents. Islam Yaxkiev, an aide to Chechnya's interim president, Zelimkhan Yandarbivey - another leading questions about the guerrilla leader yesterday, beyond re-peating: "The Chechen people will choose the President, and commander whom Russia still will continue to build an independent state."

Overriding everything is the esire for legitimacy. The candidates say they will work together, no matter who wins. The republic is desperate that the world should recognise the poll as the first step to nationhood. Some 60 international observers have arrived, despite the still unsolved murder by gunmen of six Red Cross workers as they slept in their beds in a

rural hospital. But recognition will be far harder if Basayev is the victor. In Moscow, there will be a howl of fury from the generals and opposition politicians who have long condemned the peace deal as a capitulation to criminals and terrorists. And there will be widespread allegations that the elections were illegal.

Leading politicians have already made that claim, citing the fact that many of the 300,000

Chechens living outside the republic as refugees will be unable to Polling vote. insist on being booths will be set acknowledged Chechen border in neighbouring republics, but not, for instance, in Moscow. But Russia's long-term re-

sponse is harder

state 🤊 to gauge. The Yeltsin administration is unlikely to want to get embroiled in another crippling war, and will not want to send troops back into the republic, no matter how great the political pressure to do

> Both Chechnya and Moscow both need a lasting agreement over the strategically crucial oil pipeline, which runs through the republic, and will transport Caspian oil to the West. But striking any kind of relationship will be extremely difficult.

That could however, be true. no matter who wins. Russia continues to maintain that Chechyna will remain part of the federation, although a final agreement on its status has been deferred until 2001. Yet if there is one thing that all the presidential wannabees agree on it is that the issue is already all but settled. "We will insist on being acknowledged as an independent sovereign state," saíd Aslan Maskhadov yesterday. And he is the moderate



China plays its press card with HK

The unpredictable nature of China's legal system was again exposed at the weekend when Peking unexpectedly paroled a Hong Kong newspaper journalist who had served three years of a 12-year sentence for stealing state secrets".

When the harsh sentence was originally passed on Xi Yang, it was interpreted as a blunt warning to Hong Kong re-porters that the territory's press freedoms did not extend to the mainland.

Saturday's release of Mr Xi

decision, this time an attempt by Peking to try to calm the mood in the colony after a more received similar leniency.

The Chief and the mode in the colony after a more received similar leniency.

The Chief activist Chen Ziming was let out of prison out of prison.

This time, the official Xinhua

This time, the official Xinhua week of rising anger over China's plans to scrap key parts of the Bill of Rights after 1 July.

Mr Xi, a mainlander living in Hong Kong, was arrested in October 1993 after writing an article for his newspaper. Ming Pao, about China's interestrate policy and planned gold sales. In many countries it would have been considered a scoop, but Mr Xi was tried and sentenced in March 1994.

There was no news at the weekend on the fate of Tian Ye, a People's Bank of China offinews agency said Mr Xi had

The Chinese government maintains that the judicial system is completely independent of the government, but several well-timed releases in recent years have occurred at politically advantageous moments. In 1993, just before the international vote to decide whether Peking would host the year 2000 Olympics, China's leading pro-democracy activist, Wei lingsheng, was paroled. The tollowing year, in the run-up to Washington's decision whether to renew China's most-

been freed on probation because he "showed signs of renentance" Having decided to release him, the Chinese authorities moved swiftly. Ming Puo's chief editor was told on Thursday that a release might come "fairly

On Saturday morning, Mr Xi was informed that he was being paroled, and by the evening was back in Hong Kong.

The release was welcomed in Hong Kong from both ends of

tections and freedom of the press after Hong Kong returns to China in five months. The Hong Kong Journalists Asso-ciation called Mr Xi's parole a positive signal, but added: "We always believed Xi Yang was co-ing his job as a professional journalist and his imprism-

ment was unwarranted." Earlier this month a Chiese Zmin recently described regiters as "engineers of the hu-

In keeping with this aptoach, China yesterday pubshed new directives for China's burnalists on how to report hews. Journalists should promote patriotism, collectivism and socialism, "uphold the truth court refused parole for iao in news", and also protect the Yu, 52, a mainland journlist secrets of the party and the who in 1994 was sentened to state. As Mr Xi discovered, six years for articles she rote, those who misjudge what the for the Hong Kong medi Ms government considers secret

Peking begs citizens to return Mirg bricks

Tersa Poole

There are many uses for a Ming dynasty brick, and most of them no longer involve encir-

Three decades ago. Chairman Mao's government knocked down Peking's historic city wall to make way for the second ring road. Resourceful local residents spirited away some of the rubble, turning the 50lb blocks into everything from door-stops to kitchen walls and bomb-shelters. Now, the cultural relics authorities are asking Pekingers to hand back their booty, and thousands of bricks from the old Ming city wall - more than 30,000 so far - are reappearing so that one small part of the past

can be put back together again. At the designated collection site, the bricks are arriving by bicycle, tricycle cart, and some-times taxi. Call a hotline number, and Qi Kesun at the state-run Peking Antiquity Reconstruction Company will leap into his blue truck (its banner reading: "Love the old capital. give back the city wall") and

come to pick up your bricks. Mr Qi has developed quite an eve for Ming masonry. "These ones aren't bad!" he exclaimed after being summoned to a building site in western Peking. Chipping office, he showed how the stamp on the side of each brick identified the year of production and the firing kiln. Zhang Lailong, whose hovel was next in line to be demolished.



City's renewal: A construction worker taking a break at the site of the 15th-century Bell Tower which is being restored along with Peking's ancient wall and several other historical landmarks

make it more stable." he said. Mr Qi's unit is run by the Peking Cultural Relics Bureau which recently launched a plan to renovate and extend a stretch main railway station, one of the few places where anything is left. Even these precious remains had been set for demolition by

were put under the bed to working nearby wrote to the lo-rulers built new north and south cal newspaper to alert people. Public sentiments were roused, the buildozers halted, and the official call went out for the return of old bricks for the reof the city wall just east of the building and an associated museum project.

The Peking wall originally dated from 1267 when the conquering Mongols built a new city said his family had long ago ac-quired three old bricks. "They until a sharp-eyed Chinese man tury later. the Ming dynasty grew up in Peking, recalled it

walls around a smaller settlement, and then in 1420 also encased the east and west Mongol walls with brick. The resulting structure was made up of an earthen centre up to 10 yards wide, with brick exteriors two

yards thick on either side. Anyone in Peking over 40 has fond memories of the wall.

in the early Sixties: "On the way home from school, we used to climb up and lark about on the top of the wall. It was all very pleasantly dilapidated

and overgrown with bushes and

The demolition teams struck in 1965, when the government gave the go-ahead for the new ring road. The half-mile long stretch which is the focus of the renovation project, is the inside

iuiubes.'

brick casing of one section of the former east vall.

Mr Crook who has carefully researched he wall's history, is concerned hat the few remnants are pregreed rather than reconstructe. "I'm terribly worried that bey might decide to restore i or renovate it. while what is eally needed is protection.

"My theoris that China is "My theoris that China is still very poor at in another 20 or 30 years he authorities would have the sources to do things proper! In the meantime, the less the the better, because the tak record has been patchy, me people's notion of presvation is to tear the whole hig down and rebuild with negative and all the ropaganda."

Behind all theropaganda, the campaign a old bricks does seem to ha touched a chord with the beople of Peking. There happen 2,000 calls to the hotling arrange collection, and do so f people happen structed at the bare structed at the collection. ple have struggled themselves to deliver back the vy slabs. The only reward fromors is

a certificate. Liu Jincai, 54. willyes near the old north-west car of the Ming wall, took his yele to rescue 20 bricks from earby building site. I callede hotline almost every day, are are a huge number of old cks at the building site. I amy id the big machines will desi them and take them away as bish."

His wife laughed: band every evening as go to the site to pick bricks. But I'm not qu

احكنا من الاعل

West gives Mobutu green light to unleash dogs of war in Zaire

Off the record, the Western diplomat is blunt. His country is not generally in favour of refugees suffering or dying but in this case one must consider who they are.

More than 200,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees were this week rapped in the heart of the Zairean jungle when Zaire finally launched its mercenaryled counter-offensive against the Rwandan-backed rebels who have captured a huge swathe of eastern Zaire.

Congregated around the lowns of Amisi, Tingi Tingi and Shabunda, weak after trekking hundreds of kilometres west through the bush, they are surviving on supplies which have been flown in by the UN High Commissioner for

Refugees.
While the UNHCR lobbies the international community, the rebels and Zaire to rescue them, there is little sign that anyone is prepared to help. It is quite different from November last year, a month into the rebellion, when the world clamoured for action to save more than a million Rwandan Hutu refugees trapped in eastern Zaire and a multi-national UN

force was poised to intervene. The crisis "ended" with the awesome spectacle of 700,000 refugees spontaneously making their own way back across the border. The world breathed a sigh of relief and switched its television sets off. Those now trapped in the Zairean jungle are the rump that walked against the tide

Regime's bloody counter-offensive enjoys world's discreet backing, writes Mary Braid

in Kinshasa

Although the plight of the Hutu refugees attracted worldwide sympathy, they were regarded with ambivalence by many observers in the Great Lakes. Their flight to Zaire followed the 1994 Hutu genocide of 800,000 Rwandan Tutsis. The UN refugee camps became the base from which those who were guilty of genocide plotted to recapture Rwanda from the new Tutsi-led government. The Rwandan government backed the rebellion in eastern Zaire to eradi-

cate the threat on its doorstep. In his plush Kinshasa office, the Western diplomat admits that among the refugees now languishing in the jungle there are innocent children and adults. "But there are many, many Interhamwe" [the organisers of the genocide]", he says, "people who have trekked into Zaire because they can never go home." Why, he implies,

should he care? Now that the world is not watching, the question appears academic. It is convenient to shelve the vexed issue as the stakes rise in the Great Lakes. With the launch of the government counter-offensive, led by



200 to 300 foreign mercenaries and two battalions of Angolan Unita rebels, more than 700,000 people in eastern Zaire were reported to be on the move. The likelihood of a regional catastrophe, which threatens to engulf the whole of central Africa, has increased.

In Kinshasa, some diplomats say a Great Lakes war, pitting Rwanda and Uganda against Zaire, is already clandestinely under way, and that the uprising in eastern Zairc was only a smokescreen for a Rwandan This theory is being advanced

now with greater vigour than be-fore. The rebels, under Laurent Kabila, an opponent of Zaire's corrupt dictator, General Mobutu Sese Seko, are rubbished; the capabilities of the thuggish Zairean army, which is under new leadership, are being played up. The conflict is reported to be escalating, with



Mobutu: Put mercenaries in charge of revamped army

Uganda and Rwanda sending in reinforcements to meet the counter-offensive.

This new, stronger line from some Western governments contrasts with the feelings of most ordinary Zaireans. At first they demonstrated against Mr Kabila, who was denounced as a Rwandan puppet by the

Mobutu regime. But now they mostly believe the rebel movement is homegrown and that Mr Kabila is a national hero.

But then the West has made an art form of being out of step with popular feeling in Zaire. For years it propped up the troops to crush popular revolts, although it was obvious that the dictator was bleeding the former Belgian colony dry.

Today Zaire has no infrastructure. Entire regions are virtually autonomous; tributes or payments to Kinshasa are made simply to keep Mr Mobutu's mafia at bay. The people are among the poorest in the world. Yet the West still chooses to put its faith in the Prime Minister, Kengo wa Dondo, an unpopular figure since the ailing President engineered his election during a brief visit home from France, where he is being treat-

"When the state is collapsing you hang on to institutions that still exist," another diplomat explained. But Mukendi Malumba, chief adviser to the main opposition leader, Etienne Tshisekedi, says the West is naive to think Kengo wa Don-

do will ever hold fair elections. Tense times have resulted in diplomatic feuds. Dan Simpson, the US ambassador to Zaire, recently accused France of neocolonialism in Africa. The French, who to their shame supported the Rwandan Hutu regime which committed the 1994 genocide, claim the US supported the Tutsi-led Rwandan government in its surrogate

ggression against Zaire. The row was smoothed over during diplomatic discussions in Paris two weeks ago. The overriding common interest, it was agreed, was to maintain the existing borders. These were drawn up at the 1878 Berlin con-

Africa, ignoring the existing tribal and language groups. Richard Cornwall, of the Africa Institute of South Africa, compares the Zairean state to blancmange. "You try to grab but there is really nothing there," he says. "But the fiction of the state has to be maintained, or else a whole can of worms is opened and no one wants to deal with that."

ference, when Europe carved up

One theory portrays the giant, tottering state of Zaire as a territorial buffet table at which the nine countries on its borders are feasting. Now that Rwanda's original aim, the neutralisation of the Hutu threat, has largely been achieved, it might be expected to withdraw.

In order to prevent regional chaos, the international community will be willing to sacrifice the refugees, human rights and the democratic aspirations of Zaire's people.

New UN chief facing old cash dilemma

David Usborne New York

For Kofi Annan, the new Secretary-General of the United Nations, the visit to Washington last week was a giddy round of re-ceptions, audiences and intense media attention. President Bill Clinton received him in the Oval Office and Senator Jesse Helms, the UN's curmudgeonly nemesis, had some kind words.

To an extent, the visit must be judged a success. Mr Annan has put his reputation on the line promising to propose a comprehensive package of UN re-forms by the summer. He has also fully engaged Washington on its responsibility to deliver the other side of the bargain: to pay up its back dues to the UN, worth over \$1.3bm, and thus relieve the organisation's financial crisis.

That this is going to be a hard trick to pull off is evident. But as Mr Annan flew back to headquarters last Friday he must have pondered that something worse than failure might happen - that the demands coming from Capitol Hill may ignite months of dangerous argument between the United States on the one hand and the rest of the UN on the other, with him, all

easonableness, in the middle. For example: Mr Annan suggested during a speech to the National Press Club in Washington last Friday that the US might be allowed to lower its long-standing 25-per cent share of the regular UN budget, if it could persuade other member states to acquiesce. "The formula is not sacrosanct," he intoned, "The United States can negotiate a lower rate for itself". That came only a day after Mr Helms, dawdling with reporters outside the White House, had mused about those "European countries that are so critical about us". Perhaps, he said, it was time "we looked at what they contribute".

Mr Annan conceded another point to Mr Helms. The senator is processing to table draft legislation on the Hill as early as week la, ing down what ne called "benchmarks" of reform that the UN will have to meet before Congress will consider relinquishing monies to pay back its UN arrears. And Mr Annan has agreed to receive staff members from the senator's office in New York this lation might look like.

Defensive UN officials insisted that Mr Annan has little choice but to show accommodation to the US. Mr Clinton, they said, urged Mr Annan to make friends with as many people as possible on Capitol Hill. After all, it is the members of Congress who are refusing to pay the UN. The administration is fully aware of the damage being done to its influence in the UN.

Mr Annan's overtures are certain, however, to make some of the 184 UN members nervous, if not livid. The US, after all, does have a treaty obligation to pay its dues on time. Why, other countries will wonder, the special treatment for Washington?

Mr Annan's agreement to see staff from Senator Helm's office came only hours after he told an editorial board of the Washington Post that he would not deal directly with officials from member state parliaments, only with national missions established in New York, he said.

The idea of "benchmarks" will not sit well with any other state, Britain and France among them. For benchmarks read conditions - conditions on fulfilling a treaty requirment. Ouestioned in a corridor of the Senate last Thursday, a UN staff member described the Helms demands as being "sticky" for Mr have to walk "a fine line". Indeed.

New Delhi smokers coughing mad as city boss bans their fix

Jan McGirk New Delhi

vith HK

Smokers in New Delhi are having a collective nicotine fit. Ever since the Indian capital's chief minister, Sahib Singh Verma, made it his New Year's resolution officially to ban tobacco in public, smokers have been savouring their last legal puffs at the office and plotting how they can get through a normal day without lighting up in view. The ban started yesterday, and violators risk paying up to a 500 rupee (£10) fine, equivalent to a week's average wage, if they

Elderly men, who often while away the winter afternoons by pulling their rope beds into a patch of sun in the alley and passing around a hookah, accosted Mr Verma in anger to demand that their tradition be respected. But he was adamant: no hookahs, no hubble-bubbles, no bidis (cheap leaf-wrapped smokes), no pipes - absolutely no nasty nicotine habit can be indulged within the city limits,

except in private. Pessimists predicted productivity would decline as addicts nipped out for their fix. From now, Delhi's smokers

must stub out their cigarettes in offices, hospitals, cinemas, Delhi University blamed the offices, hospitals, cinemas, restaurants, theatres, schools, stadiums, hotels, banquet halis, railway stations, airports, and all public transport. Jaded smokers say they'll ignore the ban and, if caught, cough up a small bribe, less than the fine. A few smokers, mainly women who have been trying to quit, welcomed the laws.

Throngs lining the route yes-terday to watch the Republic Day procession march towards the arch of India Gate seemed more littery than usual, "Fifty years of freedom? Not really, said a business student. Ashwin Chandiok. "Today we can't even smoke outside. Well, they've just lost my vote."

Many residents ridicule the law, especially after environmentalists said last mouth that simply breathing the air of New Delhi was the rough equivalent of smoking 12 cigarettes a day. While the Health Minister, Harsh Vardhan, said at least 30 per cent of his budget went for treating smoking-related diseases, and that nearly 1 million deaths across India were linked to tobacco, smokers said their contribution to overall air pollution in New Delhi must be

poisoned air, which makes the number of respiratory patients 12 times higher than the national average, and said almost a third of New Delhi citizens suffer from some sort of respi ratory complaint. At least 7,500 deaths in New Delhi each year are attributed to pollution. "It's absurd to ape the West

and ban cigarettes here." said Farah Singha, a chain-smoking air stewardess. "You go to New York and it looks like there is some invasion of afternoon streetwalkers, until you discover that it's just the secretaries hanging around outside to smoke during their coffee breaks. India's not like that. With all of Delhi a public place because so many people live in the streets, this ban is impossible to enforce.

Kiran Bedi, a former inspector-general of prisons, tended to agree. She outlawed tobacco three years ago at New Delhi's Tihar jail to try to improve health conditions, but found the 8.000 inmates would go to any lengths for a cigarette. "They resented my no-smoking rule terribly, although it was the best thing for them. They



Getting the hump: Rehearsals for the Republic Day parade, which is now a no-smoking event Photograph: Reuter

severe punishment for a single cigarette. Criminals would refer to tobacco as the beloved'.

"I feared they might riot before they would comply with my new health regulations." Fires broke out when smokers rigged the prison wiring to light their illicit cigarettes after Ms Bedi

craved tobacco and would risk banned matches as well. An to be launched by volunteer agencies, but few expect it to make any real headway. Meanwhile, local environmentalists are concerned about the lack of enforcement of anti-pollution legislation already on the books. This has failed to curb an in-

crease in New Delhi's vehicuanti-smoking campaign is about lar pollution or hazardous industrial wastes. Loopholes abound: tens of thousands of kerosene-powered generators kick in daily during frequent power failures and must certainly pollute the air just as

engines on motor rickshaws or

the dung fires that help warm

For now, the only legal smokers in New Delhi who can light up in public are sadhus, the wandering Hindu mystics who are allowed to pass their hashish-filled chillums with impunity. This week, they are the envy of the strung-out smokers.

Scandal of the street children that shames Kenya

Homeless teenagers living in fear of brutal treatment meted out by authorities, writes David Orr in Nairobi

Joseph Mwangi and his teenage friends are terrified of being arrested by the police. Their crime is to live rough on the streets of the Kenyan capital. Nairobi. Mostly they are picked up in ones and twos but, occasionally, there is a full-scale swoop. There was one the other day but everyone in Joseph's group managed to escape. They know what fate awaits them if they are caught and charged

with vagrancy.
So far, Joseph, aged 17, has spent only one period in detention but he says it was the worst experience of his life. Last year, he was sent to the capital's notorious Industrial Area Remand Prison pending investigation of his case.

By the time he was released two and a half months later, he had suffered serious mental

and physical abuse. It is not rare for juveniles to be sent to adult remand prisons

During their time in detention, Joseph and the three other boys with him - all in their early teens - were regularly. beaten by the other inmates. So overcrowded were the cells, they had to sleep on a latrine floor covered in human waste. "In the remand prison, the adults steal rations from the

younger ones", says Joseph,

seated under a tree in Uhuru

Park, central Nairobi. "To get it back, they are forced to do sexual things with them. Adults rape the younger ones and if you refuse you're beaten."

Joseph belongs to a group of more than 30 street kids known as the Cathedral Children. Each lunchtime they gather in the park in front of All Saint's Cathedral. The Anglican pastors give them food, their only solid meal of the day.

There are more than 10,000 street children in Nairobi alone. Most of them seem to come from poor, single-parent families. However, it is not just economic factors which push open sewer. According to

them on to the streets. The Cathedral Children, who mostly belong to the majority Kikuyu community, became homeless in 1992 after clashes in central Kenya between their people and warriors from President Daniel

arap Moi's Kalenjin tribe. In September of last year, soon after Joseph was released from the remand prison, a street kid known as Kajunia was shot dead by a police reservist in Uhuru Park. Kajunia was Joseph's best friend.

Near the spot where the Cathedral Children wait for their daily hand-out runs a foul

Joseph, Kajunia was whipped as he emerged from the sewer where he had gone to relieve himself. Then he was shot at point-blank range in the throat.

"The afande just fired his gun straight at Kajunia", says Joseph, using the Swahili term of respect for a policemen. "He fell down in the water

with his hands still raised in surrender. Then the afande spat on him and walked away. I was also beaten but I managed to escape. The afande is still around. He still comes after us and tries to

Joseph's testimony will feature in a forthcoming report on

Kenya's street children by the chance, they're condemned

The report, which follows an inquiry into the juvenile justice system and police violence against street children, is likely to prove a damning indictment of institutionalised abuse of young people in Kenya.

The police seem to think that all street children are thieves", says Elizabeth Oyugi of African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Ne-

"The children don't stand a

New York-based human rights organisation, Human Rights from the start. Most of them complain of having been beatcomplain of having been beaten by the police."

The network estimates that as many as 120 street children appear before Nairobi's juvenile court each week. For boys the charge is usually vagrancy, for girls loitering with intent. Children who plead not guilty are remanded in custody.

In court they're treated like criminals", says Mrs Oyugi.
"The justice system is extremely intimidating. They don't get a lawyer to explain to them what's

happening.

younger are being sent to the In-dustrial Area Remand Prison which is for adults. The conditions there are appalling, main-ly because of overcrowding and inadequate rations."

According to recent estimates, as many as five people a day are dying of disease in the prison. When questioned about conditions in Kenyan prisons, the former home affairs minister, Francis Lotodo, replied: "A prison is not a hotel.

It is only through the reports of former inmates like Joseph Mwangi that it is possible to get information on Kenya's prison conditions. Human rights organisations, journalists and lawyers have been refused free

Arson suspected in karaoke fire

Fire inspectors on Sunday sifted through the debris at a Hong Kong karaoke club gutted in a fire which killed 15 people, and police said they were investigating a possible organised crime link to what appeared to be an arson attack. Initial reports said the fire may have been started by a petrol bomb tossed early on Saturday on to the first-floor stairway of the Top One Karaoke Bar in the Tsim Sha Tsui district of the Kowloon peninsula. Reuter - Hong Kong

Taliban steps up expulsions

Afghaniztan's Taliban militia is continuing to expel civilians from the strategic Gulbahar district north of the capital Kabul to prevent any uprising, a Taliban commander and civilians said on Sunday. "We have told people to leave the area because they pass on military information to our opposition and to prevent any kind of revolt against our Taliban brothers." the militia's frontline commander, Mir

Madagascar cyclone kills 6

A cyclone that hit Madagascar has left at least 6 people dead, another hundred missing and 30,000 homeless, the Interior Ministry said yesterday. Antananarivo – AP

Peru rebeis release hostage

Marxist rebels holding hostages in the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima freed General Jose Rivas Rodriguez, a deputy chief in the Peruvian national police, early yesterday. The sick officer was wheeled out of the compound on a hospital trolley flanked by Red Cross officials and Bishop Juan Luis Cipriani Reuters - Lima

Accidental death of an anarchist comes back to scandalise Italy.

Andrew Gambel Rome

It was a crime that defined a generation. The shooting of police commissioner Luigi Cal-abresi in Milan on 17 May 1972 took place against an extraordinary backdrop of ideological struggle and murky violence that brought Italy to the brink of democratic collapse. The affair struffed out the innocence of the 1968 student uprisings, prefigured the terrorism of the Red Brigades and gave the first hint of a sinister collusion between

criminal underworlds. Extraordinarily, it is also an issue that has roared back to life in the past week. Nearly a quarter of a century after the fact, and following seven trials and appeal hearings, three men have been sentenced for ordering and carrying out the killing of a man who was once the most

the Italian state and various

hated policeman in Italy.

Italy's High Court ruled last
Wednesday that Adriano Sofri, Giorgio Pietrostefani and Ovidio Bompressi - all of them former members of a prominent left-wing agitprop group called Lotta Continua - were to be denied any possibility of further appeal and sent to prison for 22 years apiece. The problem is that almost nobody in Italy believes them to be guilty, and even fewer believe they should

be made to pay for the follies of an era that by now is almost a whole generation in the past.

It has been an astonishing spectacle, as political parties on all sides have tried to use the case for their own campaigning purposes and a beleaguered judiciary has lamely sought to defend a case with more holes than an Emmental cheese. The original story will be fa-

miliar to anyone who saw Dario Fo's hit play Accidental Death of an Anarchist. In the winter of 1969 some shady right-wing organisations responded to a rash of mass industrial unrest with a series of bombings, including an attack on a bank in Piazza Fontana, Milan, that killed 16 people and injured nearly 100.

We now know that the bomb-ings were part of a deliberate "strategy of tension", orchestrated by some sections of the political establishment in collusion with the secret services to counter the rise of the New Left in 1968 and scare voters away from the Communist Party. At the time, though, it was far from clear who was responsible for the attacks, and a massive disinformation campaign was launched to pin the blame on left-wing anarchists and groups such as Lotta Continua. One an-archist, Pino Pinelli, was detained without due legal process for three days at the central police station in Milan, at the end

SELENCE DE ON

The murder scene: Commissioner

of which he fell to his death from the window of Commissioner Calabresi's fourth-floor office. At first it was asserted he had committed suicide, then that he accidentally fell while smoking. Of course nobody ever believed such preposterous assertions.

means Continuous Struggle) launched a vicious countercampaign accusing Calabresi and his colleagues of torturing and murdering Pinelli before throwing him out of the window. Unfortunately they had not a shred of proof, and before long the case landed in the courts Lotta Continua (the name where the judiciary dutifully

fudged it and - years later, when the fuss had died down shelved it altogether. When Calabresi was shot outside his home in broad daylight, suspicion immediately fell on Lotta Continua but no case could ever be made against any of the organisation's members who were arrested sporadically over the next few years. By the turn of the 1980s the crime had turned into yet another unsolved Italian mystery, the authorities gave up hope of ever bringing the com-

missioner's assailants to book. But then, out of the blue, something very odd happened. In the summer of 1988, a petty crook and one-time Lotta Continua member, Leonardo Marino, turned himself in to the police saying he had taken part in Calabresi's murder. The hitman had been Ovidio Bompressi, he claimed, and the men who had approached him to take part were Sofri and Pietrostefani - leader and deputy leader of the now long-defunct Lotta Continua.

Marino's confession struck like a bombshell, not least because Sofri and Pietrostefani had become highly respected figures in their respective chosen fields of journalism and social work. But as the case

highly suspect, as Marino's testimony betrayed more and more inconsistencies and became bogged down in ever more tortuous contradictions.

He claimed to have driven the getaway car, but slipped up on details such as the colour of the vehicle and the route he



Calabresi: Once the most hated policeman in Italy

took away from the scene of the crime. Two eve-witnesses said the driver had been a woman. and others gave an account of how the murderer got in and out of the car that jarred completely with Marino's version.

Perhaps most seriously. Mari-

no failed to mention - until his own parish priest inadvertently revealed it in court - that he had spent three weeks in unrecorded talks with the police before beginning his formal deposition. Friends of Sofri and Pietrostefani have suspected ever since that a plot was hatched with the police to take belated revenge on the Lotta Continua leadership, a theory that is widely believed but which, like so

much else in this murky affair, has no evidence to support it. Much of Italy has watched aghast as successive court hearings have rubber-stamped Marino's version of events and dismissed the credibility of other evidence in surreal fashion (one witness who said he saw a

Photograph: UPi

that he was colour-blind). The final High Court verdict has sparked a wave of national revulsion including sentiments of scarcely concealed contempt from government ministers. Only the far-right National Alliance came out in praise of the ruling.

woman driving the getaway car

was disregarded on the grounds

The left sees the affair as a continuation of an ideological struggle that should by rights have subsided along with the end of the Cold War, while the followers of Silvio Berlusco. and his centre-right party Forza Italia have used the case as another stick with which to beat the Italian judiciary. Marino's confession, they argue, is exactly the sort of unreliable evidence used to nail politicians and businessmen during the anti-corruption wave of the early 1990s and has parallels, they say. in the various criminal cases at present being brought against Mr Berlusconi himself.

As for the defendants, Sofri and Bompressi were escorted to jail this weekend and Pietnounced he would be returning to Italy shortly to share their fate. Their only hope now is a presidential pardon - rare in Italy, but something that in the present climate of indignation

Speed: 0.6mph Heart Rate: 99 per min Time: 1011hrs The Tudor Monarch Quartz Chronograph Date. Tudor prices start at £520 TUDOR

PROBABLY THE COUNTRY'S LEADING CHAIN OF QUALITY JEWELLERS

G·O·L·D·S·M·I·T·H·S & W·A·L·K·E·R & H·A·L·L

To find your nearest Tudor branch call FREE on 0800 220733

Another reason to choose our Award winning DIRECT service

GET ONE MONTH'S FREE HOME INSURANCE 13 MONTHS' COVER FOR THE PRICE OF 12

- £25 discount for Buildings insurance
- ■£15,000 Contents cover from £5 a month
- Claims Team of the Year 1995 and 1996

FOR QUALITY HOME INSURANCE THAT STRETCHES FURTHER CALL

Lines open 8am to 8pm weekdays, 8am to 1pm Saturdays, Quote reference T249 HA

ne calls. If you would prefer not to receive information on other Royal &



SUNALLIANCE

IR RAI rish a bi \mathbf{E}_{1} ٨TF

and ly k Anii their and lan: Stol folk 117 K K C rek on ovii ane ichi lan: EGE CGE DA Rej and ty t cen to alr alr cen

But who will deliver a real choice of schools?

The Prime Minister's crude and personal attack on Tony Blair is a better guide to the election battle over education than any waffle about "super-schools" which may emerge from today's all-day Cabinet thrash on the Tory manifesto. The Government purports to be concerned with parental choice and standards, but the party's instincts are altogether cruder. In the election campaign we will be presented with Honest John from Brixton. who wants educational opportunity for all, against a Labour leader who enjoyed the benefits of an elite education himself, but who wants to confine them to a hypocritical, middle-class minority.

1997 • THE INDER

riciow suspect fell to his.

This plays on some of Labour's more visible inconsistencies. But will it work? We hope not, because it is a debased distraction from the real issues. And we do not believe that it will, because the dissonances in Mr Major's position are too deafening.

First, he hated school himself and left at the age of 15 without an O-level to his name. If he is to use his own humble origins as a model, his manifesto should propose correspondence courses in banking for all.

Secondly, he sent his son and daughter to private schools, which is rather more relevant than where either he or Mr Blair went to school themselves. Mr Blair's choice of school for his sons is controversial only in relation to Labour policy; in relation to responsibility for the state schools used by nine-tenths of the population, Mr Blair and his colleagues are rather better placed to preach about "opportunity for all".

So let us hope that the education debate in this election will not be about motes, beams and intermediatesized pieces of wood in the eyes of politicians. Unfortunately, today's discussions on the Tory manifesto seem unlikely to take us further forward.

Gillian Shephard's plan for "super schools" is simply an old, unfulfilled Tory pledge dressed up, that popular schools ought to be able to expand. No one has an ideological objection to this, but there are practical difficulties in allocating more money to successful schools and taking it away from sinking ones.

Her other suggestion for the manifesto the present draft is a rather thin document, if this is any guide - is to get round the problem of parents who persistently vote against schools opting out of local council control. She wants to copy Labour's plan for "foundation" schools, a half-way house between autonomy and direct rule by education authorities.

This should prompt us to ask more fundamental questions. The truth is that both the Conservatives and Labour are incoherent on the subject of parental choice. The Tories have little to say to the parents of children who are likely to be rejected in a more selective system, while Labour has a strangled message for



ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14,5DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000 / 0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 2435

parents whose children currently enjoy the benefits of partial selection. These parents happen to include Mr Blair himself, Harriet Harman and many of the middle-class voters of Wirral South (byelection pending) whose children go to its two grammar schools.

Both parties are haunted by ghosts. Mrs Shephard has boneheaded traditionalists looming over her shoulder. who simply will not accept that a return to the 11-plus would be divisive and unpopular. Meanwhile, David Blunkett, her Labour shadow, is haunted by Graham Lane. Mr Lane may not be well known, but we all recognise him

nonetheless. He is chairman of the metropolitan councils' education committee. He is the embodiment of Hattersleyism, the belief that the Local Education Authority knows best. And he has been frightening Daily Mail and Sunday Times readers by threatening to end selection in the 161 state schools which still practise it.

Hence Mr Blunkett's statement vesterday that he would veto plans by local councils to ballot parents on the future of grammar schools, if Labour wins the election. That should keep the Tory switchers of the leafy Wirral happy. But it does not resolve the dilemma

of parental choice. By the exercise of millions of parental choices (including the choice of where to buy a house) over the years, this country's schools are being more and more polarised into good and bad. This is starkly revealed in the findings of the Social Market Foundation study which we report on page 1 today. The Government is hoist by its own league tables. Parental choice is clearly an important principle in a free society, but it cannot be a policy for raising standards across the board.

It is to the question of raising standards for the middle and the bottom of the range of schools that our politicians should speak and act. And it is here that this newspaper gives Mr Blunkett the edge over Mrs Shephard, because she has too often been bogged down - as today - in administrative quagmires.

We accept that it may be easier to sound constructive about standards in opposition than in government, but equally the Conservatives simply have to accept responsibility for the present state of our education system. Of course, it should not be forgotten that most parents are broadly satisfied with their children's own schools, but there can be no doubt that the system as a whole has underperformed, is underperforming and must do better.

That is why, with all parties claiming to put education at the top of their list. only the Liberal Democrats can be credited with meaning what they say. "Will the parties spend more on schools?" was one of the eight key election questions which we asked at the beginning of this month. Only Paddy Ashdown has answered it. Mr Blair's promise to shift resources from social security to education may be better than a poke in the eye, but it cannot sustain "education, education and education" as the three priorities of a Labour government. From the Conservatives, however, all we have is a slap in the face with the old school tie.

The winged god who got the boot

o farewell then, Mercury. Clever, Daren't they, these marketing people? Obvious, really, that everyone thought Mercury was a winged god and a planet, and had never heard of the telephone company. And as for the new brand name, "Cable & Wireless Communications", now that has a ring to it! "Just make sure you hit the Cable & Wireless Communications button on the fax before you send those 200 pages to Kuala Lumpur, Dave." You can almost hear the snappy dialogue of the new television adverts. Still, we hope they don't skimp on changing the logos. There's nothing quite so sad as a new logo that cost less than £50m.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

Oxford dons call for peace in East Timor

Sir: East Timor is one half of an island in the easternmost part of the Indonesian archipelago. Originally a Portuguese colony, it was invaded by Indonesia on 7 December 1975 to prevent its independence under the left-leaning East Timorese Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor (Fretilin). and has since witnessed one of the worst genocides in post-war history with an estimated 200,000 of its original 700,000 population being wiped out by war, famine and disease, equivalent to the United Kingdom losing the entire population of Greater London and the home counties following a nuclear attack.

Two decades of military occupation. "transmigration", and the imposition of Indonesian language and culture have resulted in what the East Timorese Council of Priests has termed a form of "ethnocide". In their words: "What we are witnessing in East Timor is an upheaval of gigantic and tragic proportions ... To kill the culture is io kill the people." Thanks to massive Western

support, Indonesia has been able to act with impunity: torture, arbitrary arrests, imprisonment without trial. "disappearances" and massacres have been common, one of the most notorious being that at the Santa Cruz cemetery just outside Dili on 12 November 1991, when Indonesian troops fired on mourners protesting at the death of an East Timorese youth, killing over 250, in November 1992, the chief resistance leader, Xanana Gusmão, East Timor's Nelson Mandela, was arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment.

The recent award of the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize to the Bishop of East Timor, Mgr Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, and the principal foreign affairs spokesman of the resistance, José Ramos-Horta, has drawn renewed international attention to East Timor. At a time when the 30-year-old Suparto regime in Jakarta is controlling the problem of succession, the East Timor is ssion, the East Timor issue is ing back to haunt the Indinesian generals. No longer a mele "pebble in one's shoe" as the Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas once described it, East Timor has become a veritable boulder, threatening to split Indonesia itself apart.

Cognisant of the United Kingdom's long-standing ties with Indonesia, ties which go back to the very inception of the Republic in August 1945, we call on the British government to assist the search for peace in East Timor and the process of regime change in Indonesia itself by embarking on an urgent review of HMG's sales of ophisticated weaponry to the Indonesian Government

High on this list of weapons are the next batch of 16 British Aerospace (BAe) Hawk ground attack trainer aircraft, which have recenity been licensed for export to Indifiesia and for which no reliable guaramees have yet been received regarding the prohibition of their use against civilian targets in East

Assuch a crucial moment in the everyeffort is being made, under the anspices of the UN Secretary-General, to find a solution to the long-running issue of East Timor, we believe that the cause of peace can be best served by imposing a moratorium on further arms sales



to Jakarta, in line with the policy Cash crops cause agreed by the European Parliamen water crisis

ANTHONY ATKINSON: Sir: In your important front-page lead "World is running out of Dr GHAITH AL-OMARI: Professor I J BINNEY; Professor B BLEANEY, CBE: PETER BROWN; water" (25 January), you end by DIMICHAEL BYERS; DIPETER suggesting that global water shortages result from the need to feed a fast-growing world CAREY; DAWN CHATTY; Professor GACOHEN: DrCSL DAVIES: population. Yet it won't have Dr RICHARD DRAYTON: Professor escaped readers' notice that the MICHAEL DUMMETT; Professor ROY FOSTER: Dr JOSHUA crop you previously referred to is GETZLER; Dr DAVID GOLDEY; not a food at all, but Egyptian Professor RICHARD F GOMBRICH; The world's agribusiness Dr NANDINI GOOPTU: Dr ROGER GOODMAN: DTBARBARA

conglomerates would like us to believe that the root problem is one of producing food for the hungry. However, it is cash-cropping that causes the greatest hardship and ecological damage. Charities such as Oxfam,

Christian Aid, Cafod and Safe have long united in condemning this pernicious practice, whereby poor countries cut down forests and diverprecious water resources to grow cash crops such as coffee, tobacco. sugar or chocolate, which they sell on the world market for a pittance. When we made our BBC2

documentary Sex, Drugs and Dinner, coffee farmers in the Dominican Republic showed us how they were being forced by low prices to turn to new higher-yield coffee plants which demanded more water and light - ie yet more deforestation and costly irrigation. It's an oft-quoted statistic that half the children in Ghana are starving, and half the land is

growing chocolate for export to us.

As you point out, Egypt is already a

heavy importer of foodstuffs and it is cash-cropping, a con-trick which promises riches and delivers hunger and destruction. CHĂRLIE HARRIS

Footloose Films

London NW3 Sir: Your report "World is running out of water" (25 January) points out that farming consumes most of the water used by humanity. This is one of the many environmental reasons to end livestock farming

and eat a largely vegan diet. In the West it takes, on average 25 gallons of water to produce a pound of wheat, but 2,500 gallons to produce a pound of meat (Joni Seager, The State of the Environment Atlas, Penguin Books, 1995). Livestock farming is also one of the biggest sources of water

RICHARD MOUNTFORD

Labour lesson

Sir: I wonder if Tony Blair is aware of the long-term damage being done to his party by his current policies? In my son's primary school there is a "Demon Eyes" poster and, underneath the slogar "New Labour, More Homework". MICK WRIGHT Bury, Greater Manchester

Scottish model for Brussels

Sir: Many of us in north Britain smile at the current hysteria south of the Tweed. "Loss of sovereignty", "arrogant

centralisation", "kowtowing to foreigners" - we've heard it all before. We recall the fuss kicked up by our Tories around 1707 against union with that (then) overwhelming economic competitor England. It was similarly stoked by wounded vanity, worthy patriotism, and threatened sinecures. But the economic world was shrinking in 1707; their businessmen knew that and they were dragged, kicking and

screaming and heavily bribed, into what soon became their paradise. A blessed Union whose dissolution, as Mr Major stoutly maintains, is now "unthinkable". Today another quantum step in global shrinkage confronts Tories

north and south and another inevitable Union looms. Yet, the same reflexes, the same squeals. Have they not learnt? That first Union was so clearly successful in promoting prosperity and freedom from war - why all the fuss about extending these benefits? The reason seems equally clear.

That 1707 Union was, in practical terms, a simple incorporation, a takeover. Not with a subservient parliament, but with no parliament, no separate currency, no separate taxation, no defence forces. Nothing left to worry about.

But Brussels seems to envisage at best only a sort of federal union. a wishy-washy compromise that allows separate parliaments and local responsibilities. That's why Mr Major and his fellow Britons left and right oppose it. They realise that Brussels does not go far enough! Complete incorporation is the only answer. Total centralisation in Brussels (or Berlin) will solve all problems for Britain in 2007, just as centralisation in London solved all problems for Scotland in 1707. Any other solution must be, in a few years, "unthinkable". **GDUTTON** Blairgowrie, Parthshire

Fox hunts akin to witch-burning

Sir: Richard D North's attempt to defend fox-hunting, which he admits is "irrational" (23 January) in no way lessens my objections to this so-called sport. No civilised society should condone anything which deliberately promotes delight in death, be it human or animal. I recognise that some wild herds have to be culled and that farmers have the right to protect their stock from predators, but this should be done professionally by a cold-eyed, licensed farmer or marksman.

Like many others, I find the sight

of huntsmen sipping from the stirrup cup before setting off, giving gleeful shouts as they pursue a lone, defenceless animal, often attending a merry hunt ball afterwards, utterly repulsive. It is akin to the primitive instincts which made a ghoulish public flock to the burning of witches and public hangings. BRIAN ROBERTS Frome, Somerset

like vegetables

Indian children

Sir: Professor Hastings' call for a change in the "cultural position" of vegetables (" ... but the carrots may taste of prawn cocktail", 22 January) is more easily said than done, given the reference to "gruesome greens" in your leading

There would have to be a seismic shift in British culinary habits and attitudes to vegetables, to bring about the view that a good meal should consist of an assortment of vegetables and lentils with some meat in addition.

In India, which is probably the only country in the world that offers a highly evolved and selfsufficient vegetarian cuisine, children are rarely averse to vegetables and the large variety of greens are never "gruesome". Each vegetable (quite a few unheard of in Britain; is prized for its distinct flavour and other properties and would not be subjected to brutal boiling, except for potatoes and other root vegetables. Vegetables should be slowly braised and flavoured with a few herbs and/or whole spices to make a delicious

Would the average Briton believe that a vegetable tasted different according to whether it had been chopped, sliced, diced, cubed, shredded, puréed or left whole in cooking? Or that there is sheer poetry in the stacks of succulent vegetables on offer at an early morning vegetable market in

Vegetables deserve tenderness. MALATHY SITARAM Swindon, Wilishire

Royal yacht costs less than Clinton

Sir: Our American correspondent Elizabeth Clarke (letter, 25 January) is dumbfounded that £60m should be spent on a royal yacht. Well, there are some of us here who are pretty surprised that her countrymen spent about £500m on last year's presidential campaign.

Some years ago it was reported that it cost more to keep the presidential jet. Air Force One, in service for a year, than the cost of the entire British monarchy for the same period. There must be causes in the United States on which this money could be better spent. DONALD FOREMAN Secretary, The Constitutional Monarchy Association London, E4

Sir: So we're buying a boat! At £60m to build, plus millions in running costs, it will apparently be good for jobs, create a source of national pride and have many spinoff benefits (report, 23 January).

Cutting nearly half a billion pounds from government spending on housing in the last budget was "sound financial management". I thought that a better housed nation was a healthier and more secure one. Perhaps I'm missing BILL PAYNE

Chartered Institute of Housing Coventry

Sir: Since 1979 we have been led to believe that "privatisation" is central to Tory party beliefs. Evidently, in the matter of the monarchy ("Taxpayers buy the Queen a new yacht", 23 January), the Tory party believes in "nationalisation" - state subsidy of public services. Party of principle? STEWART WILLS Bowdon, Cheshire

MONTH'S

modern history of Indonesia, when

Monochrome age

HARRELL-BOND: Professor ROY

HARRIS; Dr BARBARA HARRISS-

WHITE: Dr WARREN HATCH;

Dr STEPHEN HEADLEY;

DINICHOLAS VAN HEAR;

McGUINNESS; Dr ANAND

NEEDHAM; DrANTHONY

Dr ANTHONY LEMON; SEAN LOUGHNA; PATRICK

MENON; JEREMY MONTAGU;

MIKE MORRIS; Professor RODNEY

PILKINGTON: Dr ROGER PENSOM;

Professor PETER PULZER; Professor

TERFNCE RANGER: TIMOTHY

ROGERS; Dr ALISON SALVESEN;

ANTHONY SMITH, CBE; Dr STEVE

TSANG; BRYAN WARD-PERKINS;

Dr DAVID WASHBROOK; DEREK

WOOD, CBE, QC

Oxford University

in September 1995.

Sir. We didn't "go out and rent colour televisions" for the Coronation (leading article, 24 January) - these were not available A 9-in black-and-white was what my family and all the neighbours watched with much excitement. CHRISTINE SMITH London E1

Sir: If the world is running out of water, should it be in private control? REG HANSELL Shepherdswell, Kent

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk). E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Gerald

Party conference in 1966

Here's how, Tony

Gerald Kaufman, former Labour minister under Wilson, has some tips for Tony Blair and his would-be cabinet

ing flat out for two Cabinets. They are, with all proper conscientiousness, carrying out the duties assigned to them by John Major and his ministers. They are also preparing for the eventuality of a Labour victory in March, or April, or May. If Tony Blair and his team do take over, awaiting them the very moment they walk into their offices will be Briefs for Incoming Ministers.

Civil servants have studied Labour policy documents intensively and will be acquainted with the contents of those documents more thoroughly than the very Labour politicians who wrote them - let alone the many more Labour politicians who were supposed to read them, but may just possibly not have done so. At an early meeting with civil servants after Labour won in 1974, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Harold Lever, noticed that several of those civil servants were brandishing copies of the Labour manifesto. This notoriously laidback politician pleaded: "I've always wanted one of those. Can you get me one?"

Primed to the eyebrows, civil servants will be able to advise Labour ministers on how to be efficient administrators. They will be completely unequipped rest of the government and,

la:

-IR RAI rish a bı

E.

VIII and ly k Anii then indi lain Stoli Olk DI7 SK rey £C rek on ori arichium

noi LR: cpb twt ed: 66.:

Name:(Mr/Mrs/Ms.)

hitehall is busy, to guide those ministers on how busy. Civil ser- to be effective members of a sucto be effective members of a successful administration. Whitehall mandarins are masters of the arcana of inter-departmental minutes and "submissions" the quaint soubriquet for the documents that civil servants send to ministers rather than to one another.

They do not have the faintest idea of how to operate - let alone manipulate - the political process. Yet it is as politicians that Tony Blair's lot will be judged.
So let me offer a few handy

rules for members of Labour's shadow administration, to cut out and paste on to the red boxes that they will soon proudly - indeed, let us make no bones about it, ostentatiously - be flaunting.

Beware the disease of Departmentalitis. As members of Labour's shadow front bench in opposition, you at present see each other all the time. Some of you even talk to one another. At workers (and, incidentally or ne opport unity to do so. In government, ministers are split up and kept away from each other, each batch sequestered in a separate departmental building.

Unless extremely strongminded, you may come to regard life in these buildings as the be-all and end-all of your existence. Yet, out there is the

SOUTH OF ST DESTREE



may equally fortuitously be believe it or not, the real world. Ministers should understand taken away. that the success of their own

department's line, in isolation,

the government and the people.

One colleague in the Labour

it may in fact be the worst.

for the Government).

Beware the disease of Min-

getting to be called "Minister

give you ideas above your sta-

When John Parker, MP for Dagenham, became the first may not only not be the best for member of Clement Attlee's administration to be sacked, Parker had the temerity to ask Attlee why. Attlee, notably tacitum, mumbled, "Not up to government, involved in a dis-

pute with me over policy, Being up to the job as a mindemanded that we meet not in my department but in his, or at ister involves remembering that there is a whole universe that any rate on what he called does not care (or even know) "neutral ground". I pointed out whether you are a minister or that we were not participants in not - unless you actually do some armistice negotiation, but something which improves that colleagues who should be coworld, however marginally, or operating for the common unless, by being big-headed or incompetent, or both, you do good. This idea, at first quite novel to him, eventually made something that infuriates the sense; we came to a decision that was good for thousands of

Ouite near to your Department is the House of Commons, filled with hundreds of colleagues in your own party L isterialitis. After 18 years of who believe, quite possibly being an opposition dogsbody, rightly, that it is they and not you who should be the minister. Ted numerous times every day may Leadbitter, MP for Hartlepool tion. Being a minister is an honand nemesis of Anthony Blunt, our, but it is an honour that has was convinced that he rather come your way fortuitously and than anyone else in the world ought to be Secretary of State for Defence. Frank Tomney, obscure (though not obscure enough) MP for Hammersmith, in the interstices of blackguarding homosexuals and demanding the death penalty, never forgave Harold Wilson for not

making him Foreign Secretary. So treat your MP colleagues courteously, and pay grave attention to what they say, even if it is nonsense. At night, as you glide by the taxi-stand in your ministerial limousine, stop and ask backbenchers if any of them are going your way. After all, they have stayed late to vote to sustain the government of

which you and, by perverse ill chance, not they, are a member.

Remember you are Labour. 4 Some ministers believe that their appointment to office requires them to abandon anything so pretty as partisan con-siderations. Yet what was the point of your party winning the election, if not to offer something distinctively different from that of your rejected opponents? So remember that your party exists and should be heeded (even if not invariably truckled to).

Spread the word about the Government's high qualities (and your own concomitant virtues) among the party membership in the constituencies. You will find them predominantly sone, quite frequently sensible and sometimes possessing better ideas than your own. It was a group of party supporters, brought to meet me from Bristol by Dawn Primarolo. who gave me ideas for a Defence Diversification Agency to deal with the industrial consequences of disarmament.

Remember your constit-Juents. They elect you. They can get rid of you. Do not take them for granted. One of my wiser parliamentary colleagues made the point succinctly: "You can be an MP without being a minister, but you can't be a minister without being an MP." One young fellow, appointed to junior ministerial office by Jim Callaghan, told his constituents that they would henceforth be seeing less of him. When the opportunity arose, at the very next election, they decided to see nothing of him at all and removed him from what had seemed to be a safe seat.

Returning from a ministerial

attend a tenants' association meeting in Manchester, I was told by one of my forthright female constituents, "I saw you on TV gallivanting in America." She then added, supplying the ultimate accolade: "Still, I've got

to say it, we do see you here."

Be boss. By this I do not O mean that you should be dominating, swaggering, bullying. Such attitudes get you nowhere, jeopardise your civil servants' loyalty, and are demeaning. On the other hand, civil servants advice is not gospel. It is the best that can be proffered by individuals who talk him round. If he is are clever and experienced but who may not necessarily know Cabinet committee. Before the what will work or what will be

politically acceptable. Always listen to advice but do not necessarily follow it. Only bad ministers blame the Civil Service, because only bad ministers let themselves be dominated by the Civil Service. After Labour lost in 1979, one former junior minister whined that he had been forced to answer written parliamentary questions in a way he had not wanted to. I found this odd, since ministers have to sign all such answers.

Who had gripped his hand while he signed, I wondered. Stephen Dorrell and Douglas Hogg got into such a mess about BSE because they listened to official advice without making a political judgement about the advice. John Major wrote me a partially untruthful letter on arms to Iraq - it featured in the Scott inquiry - not because he wanted to lie, but because he took at face value an official draft which was economical with the truth. As a minister you will certainly make

lots of mistakes. It is better to

someone else's.

Never take no for an answer. The official machinery has the capability to stitch ministers up. If you want to make a spending commitment and your own civil servants do not like it but cannot talk you out of it, they will be on like lightning to their counterparts in the Treasury. When you write to the Chief Secretary for authority for this expenditure, those Treasury counterparts will draft a letter for the Chief Secretary to sign turning you down.

Go and see him and try to adamant, take the matter to a meeting, canvass every member too many MPs who are bitter of the committee. I am not talking theory here.

A few months ago I flew back from Edinburgh in the company of a Tory member of the National Heritage Select Committee aboard British Aerospace's 146 feeder-liner. I pointed out to him, smugly, that we were aboard that particular plane because of me. Officials both at my own Department of Industry and at the Treasury had assured me that this project, then embryonic, had no commercial future. Using the tactics recounted above, nevertheless got approval and finance for it. The BAe 146 is now a winner, selling all over the world. I have been paid no commission.

Remember you are politically mortal. Believe it or not, even when you are riding on cloud nine after first being appointed, after you have scored a huge parliamentary

the Commons) or on Question Time on the BBC, the day will come when you will stop being minister.

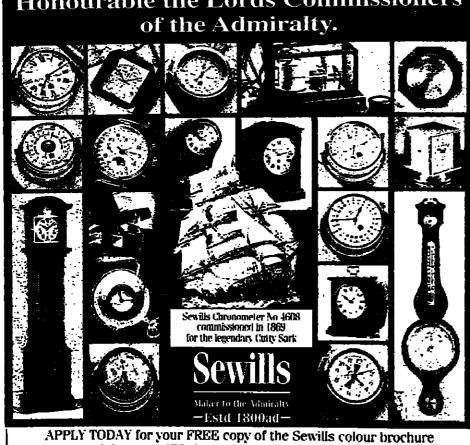
If you disregard some of my rules you may be forced to resign (David Willetts being a signal example). If your face does not fit, you may be sacked. This happened to Douglas Jay as President of the Board of Trade. Harold Wilson decided Jay should go and told him so in his considerate way. Next day Jay telephoned Wilson and announced that he had decided he would prefer to stay: Wilson had to explain that things did not quite work this way.

9 However you go, do not be bitter. The Commons has because they were ousted from junior opposition frontbench posts; bitter because they were not appointed to ministerial office, however lowly; bitter because they did not get the government job they wanted; bitter because they did not become Prime Minister. It is tedious for their colleagues and sad for them. So, remember that you are still an MP, which in itself is a huge honour, not to be attained by thousands of aspirants in the forthcoming general election.

Value the moments of glory you enjoyed. Bore those around you, as long as they will tolerate listening, by retailing your experiences. When everyone you know sidles away at the start of a sentence beginning, "When I was a minister", find a compliant publisher and write a book. You might even call it, somewhat агтоgantly, How to be a Minister.

Gerald Kaufman's book, 'How debating success, after you have to be a Minister', is published on done well at question time (in 3 February by Faber & Faber.

Chronometer, Watch and Nautical Instrument maker to, The Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.



containing over 150 timepieces and weather instruments.

Prices from £20 to £3,000. Plus details of FREE Sewills gifts.

Or fax us on: 0151 708 6777. Sewills, Combill House, 24 Combill, Laverpool L1 807.

Simply complete the coupon below and post it to:

Sewills, Cornhill House, 24 Cornhill, Liverpool L1 8DZ

Postcode

708 0099

Questions for Chris Evans? Start here

am pleased to say that I have been able to hire, at enormous expense, the services of Chris Evans in writing today's column. Chris Evans is currently unemployed, so we feel that both sides will gain from this arrangement.

Today Mr Evans has agreed to kick off by answering some of the questions sent in by readers about showbiz and the media. All yours, Chris, and

thanks for agreeing to rescue this column! Dear Chris Evans.

I wonder if you can help me. in the light of your recent experiences?

I am at present Prime Minister of your country and under the rules of my contract I have to resign in a few months' time and reapply for the job. I would like to get the job again, not particularly because I enjoy doing it, but because it is getting a hit law for me in life to get another decent iob and this is the only thing I do well, if I could be said to be doing it well, and I cenainly think I am. However, if I fail to get the

job I would then be appointed Leader of the Opposition, but there is a very real danger that my supporters would come to see me as a bad luck charm and turf me out on my ears. Even worse, they might turf me upstairs into the House of Lords as a peer, only for the new Labour prime minister to abolish the House of Lords and me with it! Well, obviously it would be pretty humiliating for me to have to get shot in the back by the Tories - and the Torics are pretty good at getting rid of leaders when they ure past their has-been dute, witness la Thatcher and Nicholas Scott etc - and as you are an expert in being hired and fired. I wonder what advice you might give me? If I fail to retain my job as PM, should I go before I am pushed, as you did? Should I

Chris Evans writes: No. Piss off. Next please.

stay on us Tory leader, but ask

for Fridays off? Can you help?

Dear Cluis Evans, I would welcome your advice on a long-term contract I once ill-advisedly entered into and now cannot get out of. The thing is, my name is Ted



Kington

Hughes (ves. I have a Welsh sumame like you, though no Welsh accent - again like you) and being something of a brilliant poet I landed a job as Poet Laureute, a job which entails writing a set of verses on notable royal occusions. At the time I drought it would be a doddle to turn out the occasional bit of doggerel every time the Queen Mum lasted another 10 years, but it has turned out to be a real grind. I ran out of ideas years ago and still I have to go on doing it. It's not as if the money is very good - 1 get 40

rold sovereigns a year and a butt of malmsey, and my agent takes 10 per cent of that,

which doesn't leave much. At the moment I am working on a short poem about the phasing out of the Roval Yacht 'Britannia', welcoming the new royal yacht which the Government has announced, but now I have learnt that the Labour Party may refuse to build a new one if elected, which is going to make my poem look pretty stupid. My feeling now is that) should jack the job in, even if I have to buy myself out. What do vou think I should do?

Chris Evans writes: Get stuffed. Next!

Dear Chris Evans. I wonder if you can help me? My name is Peter Stringfellow, and I run the most successful club in the history of the world. Twenty years ago I was unknown. Now I run the most successful club in the history of the world. This proves several things, including that it is quite possible for a young fellow like me to come from nothing with stupid name like Stringfellow and end up

running the most successful club in the world.

There are several perks to the job, including pulling lots of lovely birds, but one of the oddest perks is getting on TV. I mean, I am invited on to chat shows, and quiz shows such as 'Have I Got News for You?' and really quite classy stuff like that, where you are expected to make jokes and offer opinions, and stuff like that etc. The only thing is, I don't really have many opinions or make jokes, so don't really have much to talk about. Except running the most successful club in the world, which is all I know about. So I refer to that a lot. But I am still puzzled as to why people ask me on radio or TV. What's your suggestion?

Chris Evans writes: Bugger off. Which is exactly what I'm going to do. If I had. known that writing a column for a Monday paper meant working on Sunday morning, I'd never have taken this job. Never again!

The charismatic but unpredictable Chris Evans will be back again soon. Or not, as the case may be.

The crude words used to woo ignorant voters

oes political advertising work? Those who study the black arts of advertising alchemy offer convincing evidence that it does.

Last week we learned that Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party had their contract abruptly terminated by Mori following an attempt to engineer more palatable opinion polling results. Mori's Bob Worcester thought it unethical, and that was that. But the story highlighted the catastrophic results so far of the Referendum Party - 0.5 per cent in the polls, despite all that advert-

ising.

Ah, you might say, the solid
British voter is not for sale. Yeomen of England are not swaved by the mere flim-flam of advertising, unlike American voters, of whom Perrow and Forbes bought large numbers. You would, alas, be wrong.

However, at first glance advertising sales in the six months to December might suggest, deceptively, that voters have not been swayed. The Referendum Party spent £2.2m on posters and press space, gaining only 0.5 per cent support. The Tories spent £ 0.5m. availing them nought but a paltry 32 per cent. Labour has spent £1.1m, half-way between the other two, and they sit on a very comfortable 50 per cent. The LibDems have spent nothing - well. £1,601 - yet they have 13 per cent, which is 26 times more than Sir James.

Does that prove that advertising is a waste of money? None of us likes to feel that political advertising sways us. because it is so dumb. These days the rest of advertising is sophisticated, self-mocking, teasing; it breathes wit, irony and sassiness. Set side by side with it on biliboards, political

advertising looks crass. But then, it is expected to work only on a very small num-

- ... : ::

5 - 10 Mart 26

ri -ric reg;

ಡಚಿತ್ರಿಂದ

itics cannot escape posters. "If just 0.5 per cent of Fory voters at the last election had swung to the second party in their constituency, we would have had a hung parliament." This is something that terrified Tory MPs, facing eviction from marginal seats, are well aware of: just a few don't-know-don't-care floaters can tip the balance.

In 1992 there was a small swing to the Tories at the last moment. How much difference did advertising make? The Tories spent more in that week than all of Procter and Gamble and Unilever put together. The sheer weight of the Double Whammy had its effect.
Poster-selling has become extraordinarily

sophisticated. The big companies offer their sites in highly refined packages: Maiden Outdoor, which sells to all the parties, can offer a 'family pack" of sites aimed at housewives and children near schools, toy shops and supermarkets. There is a "captains of industry" pack, targeted at major commuter routes, while their "leisure pack" sells sites aimed at the young near clubs, cinemas, pubs and other youth

Posters work if they reinforce what people already partly think. That is why Double Whammy swung votes while Demon Eyes did



Polly Toynbee

None of us likes to admit that political posters swing votes; they are crass compared with the

wit, irony and selfmockery of other

advertising along in the Goldsmith wake. Where, now, is the advertiswhere, now, is the advertisher of people. Eighty per cent ing campaign on the other side? know how they will vote – not just at this, but at the next election. "It's aimed at those who are not in the least interested in politics and wish it would go away," says Bob Worcester, because those who switch off all television pol-

not be moved by mere British interests: they will be moved only by electoral interest. In what looks dangerously like a national stampede for the European Exit, the only way to change the politicians' minds is to persuade the people. The captains of industry would be the best persuaders: even the third of voters who say they want to leave Europe say they wouldn't

if they were persuaded that it would be against our economic interest. They are also the most ignorant, the very ones best reached by posters: the more people know about the EU, the more European they are. So now is the time for business to put money up front, fast, for a serious public campaign in support of closer ties with Europe - now, before the election. It would pull the Tories back from the brink of Europhobia and shift the whole tone of the debate. The European Movement is about to start

advertising, but it has a puny budget of £0.5m. 40 times less than Sir James's. So, where is your money, Bob Ayling of British Airways, Sir Ian Vallance of British Telecom, Dick Giordano of British Gas. Richard Branson of Virgin? (Answers on a poster, please.)

Andreas Whittam Smith's column will return next

You never know who you'll meet on a safari

by Rory Bremner

Sunday spent by the river. Nothing special, you may think, except that diles and hippos which keep me awake at night in my tent, five yards from the water's edge. No ordinary river; no ordinary tent, either, but one at

Labour currently has 1,500 posters with an almost identi-cally mendacious message: Galdessa Camp in Kenya's Tsavo East National Park. Next Tory Tax? £10.50 a week Galdessa is one of a growing VAT on Food. Enough is number of private camps and Enough." But Worcester says lodges whose development Labour is getting it wrong. Labour has all but won the elecplays a leading role in the trend to combine conservation with tion so they have nothing to tourism while benefiting local gain from negative campaign-ing. They should be offering a message of hope, a lifting of the spirits, aspirational and incommunities: eco-tourism. When I meet Galdessa's impossibly good-looking owner, Pierre Morgue D'Algue, and examine its list of monied and But what of Sir James's £20m? Is he spending his money in vain? No, because he celebrity visitors, the phrase

not. Currently, 3,001 Tory posters nationwide read "New

abour New Taxes/New Job

Losses" etc. featuring the

blood-red tear. That, Worces-ter says, is the right pitch, a neg-ative campaign against the

has already achieved precisely

what he always wanted. He has

frightened the Tory party into

turning xenophobically anti-

Europe and he has tilted pub-lic opinion alarmingly, A short time ago the likes of Douglas

Hurd were saying, loftily, that

referendums are not the British

way, but both Labour and Con-

servatives have eaten their

words since then. Both sound

distinctly more anti-European

than they did a year ago. A poll

for the European movement last month showed that one-

third of voters now want out of Europe altogether. Like it or not, we have been bought.

Tory Euro-sceptics were able to push the leadership only because the colour of Gold-

smith's money scared the life

out of a party already on the

verge of a nervous breakdown.

Goldsmith's money has pur-

chased Major's and Rifkind's

new line that it is "very

unlikely" that Britain will join

the single currency. Labour,

too, has been towed some way

front-runners.

spirational.

ego-tourism comes temptingly to mind, but let that pass. Seventy per cent of Kenya's wildlife lives outside its national parks, so it makes ecological sense to encourage tourists away from the beaten track towards smaller, more remote lodges whose owners - including several former hunters - have eagerly seized on the possibilities of eco-tourism. Galdessa may be a luxurious safari camp, but its development, together with funding from the conservation charity Tusk, has led to the acquisition of 30 black rhinos in Tsavo. Richard Bonham, at Ol Donyo Waas in the Chyulu Hills, and Ian Craig at Lewa Downs. are already supporting local communities through tourist revenue and environmental programmes. Without Bonham the Masai community would have no water supply; he brings it in from 30km away each day. And without the Craigs, there would

My safari began where last year's ended: in Cape Town, with a sober and humiliating reminder of England's own endangered species - our cricketers. Watching South Africa roll over India at Newlands, we are greeted with the teatime announcement that in reply to Zimbabwe's 249-7. England are 27-3. The crowd explodes with derisive laughter, the sort of braying that would cause a Jeffrey Archer or a Michael Winner to shuffle in embarrassment. Is there no escape from this shame? It took a good few minutes before my friend Tim Wright had the presence of mind to point out

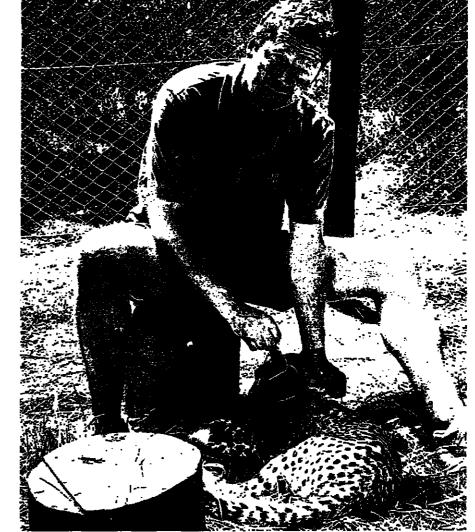
be no rhino sanctuary at Lewa

The arrival of Graham Cowdrey (son of Colin) brightened things considerably as Messrs Bremner and Wright immediately set about improving matters with a major bout of fielding practice on the hotel lawns. The acquisition of Marcus Berkmann's brilliant book on cricket. Rain Men, and the resulting obsession with cricket commentators meant that within minutes we were struck with TMS-itis, where the victims develop an inability to speak except as

that South Africa's success is

due in no small measure to

their English coach.



After 12 hours 15 minutes the spotter whispered 'cheetah'. We set off in pursuit. After 12 hours 16 minutes we were stuck in the mud

rather a good ball ...": "not a bad piece of parking ...": "one of the warmer mornings". Later that evening Graham

introduced me to Lester Piggott and quickly retreated, in the style of a child ringing a doorbell and running round the corner to await the reaction. He

ester, a legendary mumbler, was on great form. ie completely unintelligible, having perfected a form of speech which eliminates vowels altogether, possibly for tax reasons. As he is also rather deaf, he was unable to hear most of what I could say between giggles, and the con-versation fell at the first fence. The evening ended with much excitement with the news that Frankie Detorri, due to ride the next day's favourite, had a boil on his burn and couldn't take part. Word got round: Lester was keen. The racing fraternity, including Julian "scoop" Wilson, waited with bated breath to

get a ride. Alas, it was not to be. And so up to Nairobi, several hours north and beyond the reach of mobile phones. Coverage in South Africa is incredibly good. Too good, in fact. In parts of the Kruger Park your mobile phone can get a signal, which has already led to some Germans excitedly ringing up friends in Frankfurt to say: "Guess what I'm looking at now? It starts with 'L' and ends with 'ion'." Good grief. This brings out the Victor Meldrew in me. It's only a matter of time before Bob Hoskins will appear on safari, in the bush, brandishing the all-new digital mobile phone and telling

us, "It's good to stalk". A bush doctor writes: "Don't throw away any cattle prods or devices for administering electrical shocks you may have left over from the Good Old Days." They've now been found to be uniquely effective for treating snake bites and bee stings. A quick few thousand volts through you apparently breaks down the protein which is the see if the great champion would venom's key ingredient, allow-

ing the victim a rapid recovery. It's fair to say that at some time on your safari you will be completely terrified. You came here to get away from it all. The sound of lions hunting near your tent, or elephants, rhinos

or, worst of all, hippos charging at you can rather make you wish you were back there where the only thing breathing down your neck is a deadline or a director. After about 12 hours searching for big cats in the Serengeti ("I'm sure they were here two weeks ago," said my guide. rather as if he'd misplaced his glasses), we realised that as we ate under a tree 30 miles from

anywhere on the hot, scrubby plain, a leopard had been watching us 50 yards away. After 12 hours 15 minutes the spotter whispered "Duma!" (cheetah!). We set off in pursuit. After 12 hours 16 minutes the Land Rover was stuck fast up to its axles in mud. In the baking afternoon heat. With a hyena watching. Oh my God. Which brings me to Bush Tip Number Two, ingeniously employed by my guide, Roger Corfield. Remove your spare wheel and bury it 10 yards in front of the vehicle, having attached the winch cable to it. The wheel cannot move and, with luck, encouragement, low gear and a powerful winch cable dragging you out inch by inch, you can do it.

ext, to Ngorongoro crater, one of the most incredible sights on earth - a vast, dry, dusty volcanic howl many miles across. But today, as every day, it's like Sainsbury's on a Saturday morning. Within minutes you can see a rhino, two elephants, several zebra and wildebeest and about 20 Land Rovers. A sighting of a leopard can attract about six carloads of tourists craning for a view. It's like the Lake District in high summer, and another argument for more spread out. better organised eco-tourism.

At the Sopa lodge on the crater's edge, travellers' tales abound and are no surprise to the head chef, who talks nostalgically of his days at Aeroflot. Once, hearing that our chef had worked for British Airways, someone asked him if he knew where the plane was going. Nothing surprising about that, except that the person asking was the pilot. "Moscow," said our chef. "Oh," said the pilot. "We haven't got enough fuel for Moscow." The plane had to divert to a military base where the passengers were blindfolded until the plane had filled up and taken off again.

On another occasion he was summoned to the cockpit where he found the pilot struggling to get the landing gear down. Our hero calmly pointed out that planes carry a special jack with which the undercarriage can be levered down. "Ah yes," said the pilot. "The problem is, yesterday I was changing the wheel on my car ..." Sure enough, he had borrowed the lack and left it at home; the resultant crash landing ploughed a neat furrow heside the runway.

And so back to England. Shrill tabloid headlines, scandal, gossip and that election campaign. After a fortnight of crocodiles, hyenas and vultures it seems strangely familiar ...

Sold: a pyramid of greed and folly

Albanians are not the first to be fooled by the lure of easy money. So why did they fall for it?

or the sharks and schemers who inhabit the world of pyramid-selling, Albania was the softest touch of " six people on the same. For the the softest touch of all.
The 40 years of darkness under the Stalinist

leader Enver Hoxha gave the Albanian people little opportunity for learning the subtleties and potential pitfalls of personal finance.

The election of the country's first non-Communist leader less than five years ago has failed to produce the anticipated influx of wealth for the citizens of Europe's poorest nation, and average wages remain at a miserable £45 a month.

With the lifting of the Stalinist curtain, Albanians have been exposed to televised sights of material wealth, but given no explanation as to how it is attained. So when the pyramid-seller arrived, with promises of untold riches, he was telling a desperate people what they wanted to hear; the secret formula for earning easy money. It was a message that has also been enthusiastically received in Britain and most other parts of the world. For, if the pitch is good, pyramidselling can be a persuasive proposition.

Subscribers are asked to pay an entry fee -£3,000 is typical in the UK - and are promised unrivalled rates of return, with the money being paid from the subscriptions of new people recruited to the venture. The rules are fairly straightforward: each new member is typically required to recruit a further six people. But for the first member to get a good return from the scheme they will need the three levels of the pyramid beneath them to be filled. This requires

the recruitment of 216 people (6 x 6 x 6). While this may not be beyond an enthusiastic pyramid salesman, the mathematics are more dannting for those who are subsequently eventually losing a total of £6m.

fill the necessary three levels beneath them, each must find a further 216 people - a total of 1.296. When those 1.296 come to recruit, they will require 279,936 people. For these to get their reward, 60 million participants are required.

The problem with pyramid-selling is that the number of potential recruits is limited, meaning that those on the bottom levels have no chance of making money. In-evitably, the scheme collapses under its own weight long before the 60 million are recruited, and

while those at the top of the pyramid will no doubt have made considerable gains, the vast majority of subscribers lose their money. When a scheme collapses, those who set it up, who may well have made large profits, are tempted

simply to start all over again.

The activities of pyramid-salesmen in Britain have alarmed the Department of Trade and Industry, which has closed some of the larger schemes on the grounds that they are against the public interest. Alchemy UK, one of the most controversial, was wound up after taking £3m of investors' money. Participants were promised a return of £31,775 each after making 24 monthly payments of £75.

Another company. FPW, offered the Midas plan - computer-generated - and claimed to turn £140 into £600 as many times as investors liked. Some 20,000 people bought into the dream,



lan Burrell

Last year, Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, described pyramid-selling schemes as "pernicious and evil". He said that such operations break the law when "they involve those who set up, promote, purvey and administer the scheme, in crim-

inal offences". Lord Woolf was speaking in the Court of Appeal as he outlawed Titan Business Club, a 10,000strong scheme which stirred its members to ever greater recruit-ment activity at Revivalist-style

Earlier this month, a Private Member's Bill banning money circulation pyramid schemes finally became law. Previous legislation, passed in the Seventies, had proved ineffective against operations which had no product to sell. Instead, regulators used provisions in the Companies Act to ask the High Court to shut down pyramids, a slow process which has been used to close 18

operations in the past three years.

The Government believes that the new legislation will finally end the practice in this country. John Taylor, the consumer affairs minister, said that many pyramid operations were "no more than swindles". For their part, pyramid sellers claim they are misunderstood. One of Titan Business Club's directors complained that the company had been the victim of "extreme prejudice" by the authorities.

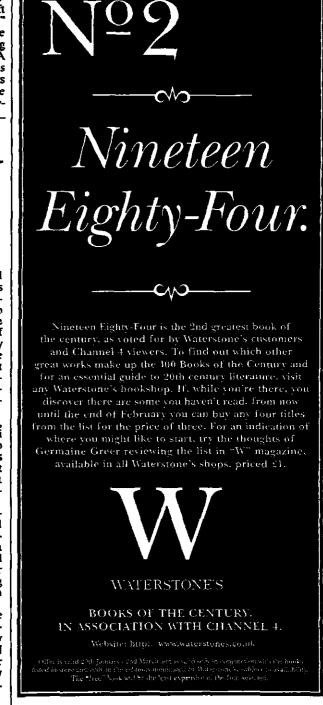
The degree of suspicion is not dissimilar to that once levelled at time-share holiday schemes. Like many time-share operations, pyramid sales companies often draw potential new mem-

bers to hear their carefully prepared promotional patter in a highly charged atmosphere with ranks of other would-be members. And like timeshare, direct selling - as pyramid-selling is also known - has its respectable side, with reputable companies serving satisfied customers. Most of these involve sales of products such as jewellery or cosmetics, and are not limited to the simple transfer of money. Richard Berry, of the Direct Selling Association, which represents legitimate multi-level marketing companies, has publicly welcomed the clamp-down on "get-richquick" schemes by the British authorities.

Pyramid-selling is not new. In the Twenties, Charles Ponzi gave America the name "Ponzi Scheme" after persuading gullible Americans to part with millions of dollars. And if a scam was tried and tested in America and Britain, then it was sure to succeed in the former Communist countries, where investors were even more vul-

nerable to being swindled.
In Russia, 25,000 angry investors recently converged on the offices of one pyramid-seller, and in Romania the Caritas scheme collapsed having attracted an estimated \$1bn (£630m) from up to 4 million Romanians. In each case, greed was the motivating factor, just as it will be for those who buy into future pyramid-selling schemes. People will always want to believe in the dream of fast and easy money.

Those with the most unshakeable belief in the dream are often those in the most desperate circumstances, and this weekend in Albania, many investors still refused to believe that they had been duped. They rioted and burned, their anger ostensibly aimed at a government whom they accuse of malpractice over the affair, but in reality they have no one to blame but themselves.



ly to change Ethiopia into a modern constitutional monar-

chy. The Emperor was away on

a series of state visits and that

night many, but not all, of the

empire's powerful officials and

ministers were rounded up on the pretext that the Empress was ill. The Crown Prince

broadcast more than once in

support of peaceful change and

the myth has developed that he

had a pistol at his back and also later that a loyal officer shield-

ed him from machine-gun bul-

lets. In fact, although he had no prior knowledge of the coup at-tempt, there was no coercion

and his speeches were tape-

recorded in an office and taken to Radio Addis Ababa.

He left the Palace during the confusion and fighting and was

of course at the airport to wel-

come the Emperor on his return,

inspiring much press speculation the headline, "The Once and

Future King", was fairly typical but Haile Sellassie made no

public display of his anger. Pri-

vately, he was sad and often fu-

rious. "We forgive you and

forget you," he is said to have told Asfa Wossen, and although he thought it prudent to excuse

the prince from participation in

the show trial of the surviving

conspirators - several had tak-

on their own lives - the Emper-

or spent many evenings listening

to secret tapes of the trial grasp-

ing for hints of what had really

În later years, Asfa Wossen's

mother and younger brother Leul Sahle died. For several

years he remained in the back-ground, not invariably unpopu-

lar with the new generations,

although they were becoming in-creasingly radical in their disaf-

fection with the imperial regime. Then, in 1973, he suffered a

serious stoke, and paralysed

down one side and, barely able

to communicate, was flown to

London. When the revolution

eventually occurred the fol-

lowing year, some announced that Asfa Wossen would be

their choice for constitutional

monarch, but they were soon

Crown Prince Asfa Wossen Haile Sellassie

The death of Asfa Wossen, Crown Prince of Ethiopia since 1930, almost certainly marks the final demise of thousands of years of Ethiopian monarchic

He was born in 1916 in the ancient Adare walled city of Harar, for centuries an important Islamic centre of learning and trade in the Horn of Africa. Thirty years previously, in 1887, Harar had been captured and incorporated into the expanding (and traditionally Christian) Ethiopian Empire by Emperor Menelik II, King of the Kings. Menelik had appointed Asfa Wossen's grandfather, Makon-nen, to be its first "Abyssinian" Governor, and in due course Makonnen's son Tafari (Asfa Wossen's father, later the Emperor Haile Sellassie) succeeded to the Harar governorate.

It was an unsettled period throughout Ethiopia. With the decline of the historic power centres in Northern Ethiopia and Tigray and the growing role of influential Muslims, Menelik's grandson and heir, Eyasu (who ruled uncrowned from 1913) spent a lot of time in the conquered provinces. In 1916 Tafari, then governor of Harar, was recalled to Addis Ababa, where he played a prominent role in a coup d'état against Eyasu being prepared by the traditional Orthodox Christian leaders and the Shewan nobility, with clear foreign support. Tafari had his wife, Menon

(grand-daughter of the Negus - king - Mikael of Wello, Eyasu's father) and son smuggled out of Harar. The young Asfa Wossen was left, in a traditional cradle attended by two servants, at the British Legation in Addis Ababa, to the supposed embarrassment of the Minister, the Hon Wilfred Gilbert Thesiger (father of the explorer). On 27 September 1916, at a meeting of notables and Orthodox clerics in Addis Ababa, Abuna (bishop) Mattheos announced the deposition and excommunication of Eyasu, accusing him of apostasy, by way of submission to Islam, and treason,

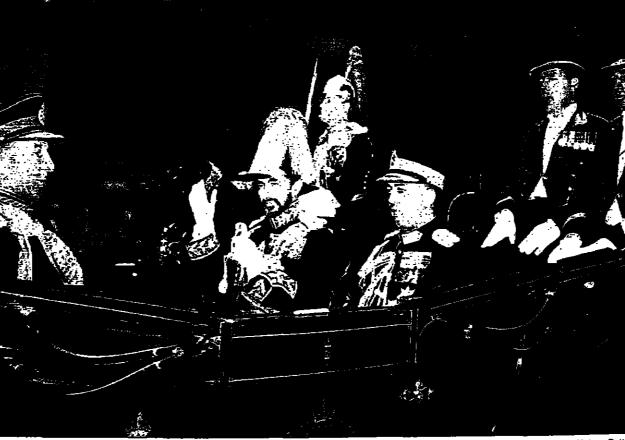
Eyasu's angered father, the Negus Mikael, at once took the field against the Shewan conspirators but surprisingly was defeated. On 11 February 1917, Zaudito, a barren danghter of Menelik, was crowned Queen of the Kings; a Ras (leading nobleman) was made Negus and the youthful, modern Tafari became Regent with the title of Ras.

It was still some years before Asfa Wossen's position was further secured. His father was created Negus in 1928 and, finally, on 2 November 1930, crowned King of the Kings Haile Sellassie (Power of the Trinity); Asfa Wossen was himself given a Shewan royal title, Merid Azmach. In conversation most people began to refer to his new status by the popular term Algorash. He grew up fast in the strict court, fashioned after that of Sweden by the reformist Emperor with the help of an adviser from that neutral country.
Asfa Wossen was only 16

when he, in turn, was married to Walata Israel, great-granddaughter of the Tigrean Emperor Yohannes. Although, with others at the coronation, he had publicly pledged his loyalty to his stern autocratic father, and accompanied him on state duties whenever possible, Asfa Wossen was always closer to his mother. Over the years a seeming gulf developed between the prince and his father, who openfavoured his second son,

Asfa Wossen was appointed vernor of Wello in the early 1930s, and after a major flareup, in which his mother interceded, he began to spend more time in Dessie, Wello's capital city. The wily and suspicious em-peror filled his son's household with informers.

In the early 1930s Mussolini sought to create a situation by which he might invade Ethiopia without incurring military reaction from members of the League of Nations, particularly Britain and France. Ethiopia's feudal and ethnic divisions were exploited by Italy, but Asfa Wossen and his father



sie, on a visit to London, 1954 Photograph: Hulton Getty t but dignified: Asfa Wossen (right) with his father the Emperor Halle Sel

their own advantage, endeavouring to safeguard the last out-post of African independence.

When in 1935 all else failed and the Emperor's mobilisation order arrived, Asfa Wossen and his mentor Dejazmach Wodajo Ali found it difficult to raise troops, for the local people were bribed and many retained some allegiance to the Negus Mikael and Eyasu, unaware of the latter's mysterious death that year at his prison near Harar. Evenmally. Asfa Wossen had to slip out of Dessie to the capital via Warra Hailu, after being warned

of imminent treachery. The under-equipped Ethiopian armies were repeatedly defeated and on 2 May 1936, the Imperial Ethiopian family fled by train to the coast and on to

unlike several other nobles - Jerusalem and Bath in England, resolutely refused all offers to but not before Asfa Wossen had witnessed the horrors of modern warfare. The Italian forces had used mustard gas, which burnt the soldiers' often bare feet and their lungs. Even Red Cross field hospitals which the

> Capronis which enjoyed undisputed control of the skies. In exile, Asfa Wossen amicably divorced his wife, who had been unable to give him a son, and married Medfariashworq Abebe. For years he kept in secret touch with several patriot leaders who fought on in the Ethiopian mountains and meantime studied at Liverpool University and, once Italy declared war on Britain, at the Sobat Military Academy in the Sudan. There he lived at the "Pink Palace" on the Nile north

prince visited were bombed by

of Khartoum, but was with his father and younger brother when, on 20 January 1941, their small force crossed the Dinder River into Ethiopia.

British Commonwealth forces had already invaded Eritrea and Somalia and were converging on Addis Ababa. Asfa Wossen ac-companied his father, Orde Wingate, Brigadier Sandford and others into Gojjam. After its liberation, he travelled north to co-ordinate the patriot forces in the last phase of the liberation struggle at Gondar. Having been promoted Major-General by his norate in Dessie, Wello. Leul (prince) Makonnen was increasingly favoured in the capital until, in 1957, he is said to have been accidentally killed in a car crash. Most Ethiopians believe there was a cover-up, for

he had acquired a reputation as a philanderer.

Attention reverted to the first son, though his relations with his father did not improve. He was reticent, but always dignified, and was kept so short of funds by the Emperor that his mother, a rich land-owner, was constrained to make him a secret allowance.

As the winds of change swept over Africa in the 1950s, Asfa Wossen's name was linked, most probably without his knowledge, to a number of conspiracies. Then, on the evening of 13 December 1960. he was escorted to the Headquarters of the Imperial Guard by its commander, Brigadier General Mengistu Neway. He, with his brother Girmame and the heads of the Police and Intelligence, conspired peaceful- displaced by more radical Virginia 17 January 1997.

forces. Surviving royals were incarcerated and in subsequent struggles for power many atrocities occurred. However, even the revolu-

tionary regime (1974-91) which the most violent eventually established in Ethiopia, could not cope with the regional and ethnic pressures which had played so large a role in the rise to power of Tafari's family. Abroad the descendants of other prominent nobles began to adopt styles and titles and otherwise promote themselves until, in 1989, resentful and probably equally ambitious relatives prevailed on the ailing prince to hold a reception at the Ghibbi (palace) on a third floor in Portland Place, in London, to declare himself Emperor Amha Sellassie, his son Zara Yacob Crown Prince and his late father "Haile Sellassie the Great". It was a non-event and illadvised. In 1990, the family

moved to the United States.
In north-east Africa today, distantly related sons of important northern families and their followers have re-established independence in Eritrea, and in Ethiopia the influence of Tigray has been greatly restored. The national President is an Oromo, but the absorption of Negus Mikael's people and particularly their cousins in the south-west and south, is by no means complete. There remain many questions to be answered about the Somali peoples on all sides of Ras Makonnen's borders. Had his son Haile Sellassie not chung to pow-er for so long and had his son Asfa Wossen's own health not failed him, the basic realities of Ethiopian politics would still have had to be addressed.

Richard Greenfield

Asfa Wossen, crown prince: born Harar, Ethiopia 27 July 1916; Merid Azmach 1930; Governor-General of Wello Province, Ethiopia; married 1932 Woizero Walata Israel (marriage dis-solved; one daughter), Woizero Medfariashworq Abeba (one son, three daughters); died Fairfax,

against it. By the time Munro

Stanley Hyland

In the 1950s and 1960s, before the spin doctors took over, television party political and election broadcasts were sole-ly produced by the BBC's Tele-vision Talks department. Prime ministers, warily facing the hazards of live transmission in the new medium, tended to demand the services of a familiar trusted producer. For Anthony Eden it was David Attenborough; for Harold Wilson it had to be Stanley Hyland. He produced most of Wilson's main broadcasts from 1964 to 1970. It was the Labour prime minister himself who applied to Hyland the nickname "Gold Microphone in Waiting", originally coined by Malcolm Muggeridge for Richard Dimbleby. Like Wilson, Hyland was a Yorkshireman. He grew up in Shipley and attended Bradford Grammar School with Denis Healey. At his 14th birthday party, Hyland's father, a lifelong Labour supporter, decided to instruct him in the facts of life. He drew Stanley aside, told him he had important information to impart, and began, "First let me tell you about the birth of the Trade Union movement."

After serving as a Navy sig-naller during the Second World War Hyland became a research librarian at the House of Commons. He acquired a thorough knowledge of both the workings of Parliament and the structure of the Palace of Westminster, which he put to good use in the first of three thrillers he wrote, Who Goes Hang? (1938), about an ancient corpse discovered in the clock tower of Big Ben.

Hyland joined the BBC European Service in 1951, and held three posts, including Turk-ish Programme Organiser. He



Hyland: 'Gold Microphone in Waiting'

Photograph: BBC

then moved to the Televison Talks department. He worked under John Grist, then in charge of producing all the political programmes, and together they developed Who Goes Home?, a predecessor of Question Time, in which two MPs from adjoining constituencies debated political issues before an audience of their electors. The first came from Keswick with William Whitelaw and Fred Peart making their first television appearances. In 1959 The Hustings used the same technique to cover the General Election campaign, dividing the country into as many groups of constituencies as could be reached by regional and local transmitters at once. In September 1962 the Con-

Mr Mohamed Al Fayed, chairman of

servatives asked that Grist be assigned to them as the principal producer of their party election broadcasts. In February 1963 a similar request for Hyland came from the Labour Party. Thus began the close relationship between Wilson and Hyland, who also produced the programmes

for the Liberals. Meanwhile Hyland had been involved in a quite different series of service programmes. using Barry Bucknell, an allpurpose handyman, to give practical instruction from the studio to the growing body of DIY enthusiasts. Bucknell and Hyland then suggested an innious development: buy a dipidated but structurally sound house. Then show Bucknell

each week doing the various jobs needed to reconstruct it, and finally sell it again at a profit. They discovered a suitable

house in a Victorian terrace in Ealing, west London, with space alongside to park an Outside Broadcasts van, and the BBC's regular and very respectable estate agents were asked to negotiate the purchase. Their surevor's horrified report advised the television service "not to touch it with a bargepole". Hyland courteously replied that the things the surveyor had found wrong were virtues for his programme, which was a popu-

In 1970 Hyland, by then Chief Assistant in the Current Affairs Group, decided to retire from the BBC and put his production skills to work commercially. He founded HvVision, one of the first private companies to train amateur performers to face a television camera. His clients included ICI, the police, Imperial Tobacco, Commercial Union Assurance, and the Save the Children Fund. "When one of my clients is on." Hyland claimed. "I promise you Robin

Day won't chew him up." In 1994 Hyland was involved in an accident which resulted in the death of his wife and severe injuries for himself; this clouded his final years, though recently he managed to pay a last visit to the House of Commons, where his cureer had begun.

Leonard Miall

Henry Stanley Hyland, television producer and author: born Shipley, Yorkshire 26 January 1914; BBC Television Talks 1958-70: married Mora Hopkinson (died 1991; two sons); died Bromley, Kent 17 January 1997.

Ian Munro was a medical journalist, doctor, campaigner, humanitarian, Yorkshireman, editor and cricketer, probably in that order. He trained at Guy's, remaining a Guy's man at heart; but it was a heart that also found space for many humanitarian causes, and for the

Yorkshire County Cricket Club. Munro had the Yorkshire qualities of sturdy independence combined with an instinctive questioning of authority. He was a true radical and a good scentic. He disliked the self-interest of the medical establishment and was often a thorn in their flesh. He was recruited by The

Lancet in 1951 after serving in the army as a radiologist. Dr Robbie (Theodore) Fox, the editor, felt The Lancet needed Munro's radiological expertise, but it was as a writer and campaigner that he excelled. He spent the next 36 years there, striding around the office, largeframed, loose-limbed and dishevelled, emitting a curiouslypitched hum when engrossed. often irritable with people who moved less quickly than he did. When he thought he was unobserved he could be seen prac-

tising cricket strokes. The Lancet received over 4,000 papers a year from around the world, and only one in eight made it into print. The unsuccessful authors would receive an exegesis thanking them for their lawed masterpiece and regretting that he must refuse it; nothing was ever "rejected". Sometimes his refusals were so gentle that the recipient would have to phone for clarification. Robbie Fox claimed to have appointed Munro on the strength of a let-

ter he had written to thank him for lunch: "whoever can write a really good letter must be able to recognise a bad one and therefore has the makings of an

Munro was a thunderer with his pen and wrote many of The Lancet's unsigned editorials. When the Health Service was strike-bound in 1983 he blasted forth at Norman Fowler. then Secretary of State for Social Services:

Mr Fowler might reflect again on the quality of conscience that his post requires of its occupant. How far can he permit the NHS to be devalued by the intractability of the prime min-ister he serves? If he has deep doubts, as The Lancet believes be should have, about the outcome of his term as Secretary of State, then he must resign.

est passion, but not the only one. His other causes included world population and family planning, abortion law reform, nuclear disarmament, and the introduction of simple and effective health care measures for the Third World. He incurred the displeasure of the family planning lobby, though the cause was dear to his heart, by nublishing preliminary and llarming papers on the dangers of the contraceptive pill; he did this because he felt that frightening information should not be suppressed and that women should be equipped to make informed choices. He was influenced by the work of lain Chalmers and colleagues at Oxford, showing that increased interference in childbirth is no guarantee of increased safety. He was an early and consistent champion of Wendy Savage, the mildly radical gynaecologist who was accused of incompe-

tence by some of her colleagues and abruptly suspended. He was the archetypal doctor, listening with concentrated

patience, and was accessible to his colleagues in Fleet Street even in unsocial hours. Munro was, typically, on the reformist wing of the York-shire County Cricket Club. He played for Weald Cricket Club

houettes probably grew ever less svelte with age. He also led the - usually rounders or croquet against a scratch side from the British Medical Journal, As a sportsman his personality changed to one of ruthlessness and he would argue ferociously about the rules with the cap-

Dr Ian Munro

The NHS was Munro's greattain of the rival team while the other players were more interested in beer and an agreeable day out - the scores were usually tampered with to produce a draw. When he joined The Lancet it was locked in combat with the British Medical Association and its Journal, partly because The Lancet was strongly for the NHS and the BMA

retired this hostility had turned to amicable rivalry and it was his counterpart at the BMI, Stephen Lock, who organised a farewell dinner for him and the publication by the Keynes Press of a book of tributes called Swerving neither to the right nor the left (1988), an appropriate title: his liberalism and radiand for the Silhouettes, a group calism was determined by his of Guy's graduates whose sil- beliefs in individual freedom and human rights. Munro would attack politicians re-Lancet team on their matches gardless of their affiliation and wore their disapproval like a

medal. Behind the conviviality was a shy and intensely private man. Married to a doctor, he had five children, and one of his daughters is a midwife. Though not a Quaker - and not a teetotaller either - Munro's radical and humanitarian ideals fitted well with The Lancer's Quaker traditions.

His retirement in 1988 freed him to give his energies to causes dear to him: the Association for the Promotion of Health Care in the Former Soviet Union (Chairman 1988-93), Medical Action for Global Security (Vice-Chairman from 1988); and the UK branch of Physicians for Human Rights (President from 1991). He died of complications following an operation and he was, of course. an NHS patient.

Caroline Richmond

Ian Arthur Hoyle Munro, medical journalist, born Bradford 5 November 1923; Deputy Editor, The Lancet 1965-76, Editor 1976-88; married 1948 Olive Jackson (three sons, two daugh-ters); died Tunbridge Wells, Kent 22 January 1997.

Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

DEATHS

16

 $\mathbf{E}I$

W

inc by li And the and ian isto ioli ti

Š

on ovi 3ri:

e ich

NO LR ept sw ed ed 66.

181

D.^j Rx

CRICHTON: David George, on 22 January, peacefully, at Headbourne Worthy, aged 82. Dearly loved hus-band of Betty and the late Susie (for oans or nerty and the late SUSIE (for 50 years), Loving futher of Fencila and Charles and grandfather. Cremation private. Thanksgiving service at St Mary's, Battersea, on Thursday 13 February at 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations to Trinity Hospice. London SW4 0RN.

MAAS: Jeremy Stephen, on 23 January 1997, aged 68. Husband of Antonia, father of Athena, Rupert and Jonathan. Private family funeral, memorial service to be announced. Donations in lieu of flowers, if desired, to the Royal Academy, Burlington House, London WL

TAYLOR: Dom Arthur Augustine OSB, priest and monk of Buckfast Abbey. Peacefully, on 23 January 1997, in his 80th year. Requiem Mass in the Abbey Church, Saturday 1 February

For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, telephone 0171-293 2011. Charges are £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Birthdays

Harrods Holdings, 64; Professor Gillian Beer, President of Clare Hall. Cambridge, 62; Mr Nicholas Bomford, Head Master, Harrow, 58; Sir Wilfrid Bourne QC, former Permanent Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Office, 75; Dr Robert Burchfield, former editor of the Oxford English Dictionary Supplement, 73; Mr John Bury, theatre, opera and film designer. 72; Mr Michael Collins, clarinettist, 35; Sir Kenneth Corfield, former chairman, STC, 73; Mrs Mairead Corrigan-Maguire, joint winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, 53; Mr Michael Craig, actor and playwright, 68: Baroness Cumberlege, Under-Secretary, Department of Health, 54; Lord Dunboyne, former circuit judge, 80; Sir John Eccles, physiologist, 94; Air Commodore the Hon Timothy Elworthy, Captain of the Queen's Flight, 59; The Right Rev Henry Halsey, former Bishop of Carlisle, 78; Brigadier Rita Hennessy, former matron-in-chief, QARANC, 64; Mr John Hopkins, playwright, 66; Senor Federico Mayor Zaragoza, Director-General, Unesco, 63; Mr Alan Milburn MP, 39; Miss Nina Milkina, concert planist, 78; Baroness

Rawlings, former MEP, 58: Mr

Mordecai Richler, nevelist and play-

wright, 66: Lord Rix, actor and former secretary-general of Mencap, 73; Sir Roger Sims MP, 67: Mr Neville Trotter MP, 65: Sir William van Straubenzee, former MP, 73; Lord Vinson, inventor, and Chairman, Institute of Economic Affairs, 66.

Anniversaries

Births: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. composer, 1756; Eugene-Emmanuel Viollet-la-Duc, architect, 1814; Lewis Carroll (Charles Lutwidge Dodgson), author, 1832: Kaiser Wilhelm II, Emperor of Germany and king of Prussia, 1859; Jerome David Kern, composer, 1885. Deaths: Abraham Bloemacri, painter and engraver, 1651; Willem van Mieris, painter. 1747; Giuseppe Fortunino Francesco Verdi, composer, 1901; Dame Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies, actress, 1992. On this day: the University of Georgia, United States, was founded, 1785: the independence of Greece was proclaimed, 1822; a patent for the electric lamp was taken out by Thomas A. Edison, 1879; television was first demonstrated publicly by John Logie Baird, 1926; civilian women were conscripted in Germany, 1943; three US astronauts lost their lives during tests in the Apollo capsule at Cape Kennedy, 1967; flooding in Southern California resulted in many deaths,

1969: a cease-fire began in Vietnam 1973. Today is the Feast Day of St Angela Merici. St Julian of Le Mans, St Marius or May and St Vitalian Reports.

Lectures

Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Ian Stewart, "Four Centuries of Loga-University College London, Londog WC1: Mr Andrew Lewis, "Roman Law in the Middle of the Third Millennium", 5.30pm.

Professor P.H. Fowler FRS

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Peter Fowler, Fellow of the Royal Society and Professor Emeritus of the University of Bristol, who died on 8 November 1996. will be held in Bristol Cathedral on Friday 18 April at 11am.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard a Rorse Guards, Ham: 1st Battaling Sout

Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at

Buckingham Palace, 11_30am, band pro

vided by the Grenadier Guards.

The following notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the All England Law

Children Devon CC v B; CA (Sir Stephen Brown P, Pill LJ, Sir Patrick Russell) 11 Dec

A local authority, having the care of a child under s 31 of the Children Act 1989, applied to the county court for an injunction to restrain the child's mother from visiting the town where the child was to be placed for adoption. Apart from the question whether the terms of the injunction itself were too wide, the injunction had been made in support of an order to place the child pursuant to a care order. In seeking to invoke the exercise of the court's inherent jurisdiction, the leave of the High Court was required under s 100(3) of the 1989 Act. No such leave had been obtained nor had s 100(3) been brought to the attention of the judge.
The county court had no in-

CASE SUMMARIES

27 January 1997

herent jurisdiction to grant an injunction, its jurisdiction being derived from statute alone. The injunction would be set aside and the appeal allowed. George Meredith (solicitor, Devon CC)

for the local authority; Richard Hickmet (Wolfestures, Phymouth) for the mother, Lawrence Deegan (Stanton & Walker, Chesterfield) for the father, Michael Melville-Streeve (Messrs Gill Akaster, Phymouth) for the guardian ad litem.

Thames Heliport pic v Tower Hamlets LBC; CA (Beldam, Ward, Schlemann LLIT) 28 Nov 1996. Because the environmental im-

pact was quite different from that created by inland navigational use, the employment of floating platforms at various points on the Thames between Chelsea and Greenwich for the launching and landing of helicopters could amount to a material change of use of "land"

"development" for the purposes of statutory planning control. The court could not declare in advance whether limiting such use to not more than 28 days a year at any one location would cause it to be permitted (without prior application) under the General Development Order 1995 as on each occasion it would be up to the relevant enforcing authority to determine what area had been affected. Michael Fitzgeral QC . Roben Fookes (Frere Cholmeley Bischoff) for the applicants; David Widdicombe QC, Michael Druce (Sammons & Stranons)

(the river and banks) and hence

Titterrell v Tunbridge Wells BC; CA (Sir Stephen Brown P. Pill LJ. Sir Patrick Russell) 4 Dec 1996. The applicant sought compensation in respect of land ad-

oining his house which had

for the respondents.

therefore been blighted. The decision of the Lands Tribunal. hearing a preliminary point of law, that land allocated to the Green Belt was not blighted land within the meaning of s 149(1) and Sched 13 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 was upheld on appeal The applicant in person; David Lamming (FM Harris, solicitor to the council) appeared for the respondent.

and which he claimed had

Negligence

National Home Loans Corp pic v Giffen Couch & Archer (a firm); QBD (G Hamilton QC, Dep J) 6 Dec 1996. A solicitor instructed by both a mortgagee and a mortgagor on a remortgage was under a duty to inform the lender if he discovered the proposed buyer had a bad record of repayment with a previous lender, and his failure to do so could render him

liable in negligence. Daniel Serota QC, Peter Kirby (Eversheds, Cardiff) for the plaintiff; Nicholas Davidson QC, Elizabeth Weaver (Mills been allocated to the green belt & Reeve, Cambridge) for the defendant.

حكا س الدمل

Second-liners come in from cold to take up the running with Footsie

Auto pingung and a second control of the sec An important link was re-established in the stock market

last week. For the first time since April the two major share indices were riding at peaks at the same time although they fell

from grace on Friday. The blue-chip Footsie index had tended to make the running since April's togetherness with the supporting FTSE 250 index limping along behind. But this year the pattern has

changed and second-liners have scrambled to make up lost Although Footsie has made far more dramatic progress since April, supporting shares, as well as the smaller fry rep-resenting the market's lower di-

visions, have looked much more positive in recent weeks. The catch-up will come as no surprise to many observers. After all the shares of smaller companies often seem to do well at the start of the year,

probably fuelled by the rush of

Silver to the first the first to the first t

The state of the s

Coll life Telling . - Suit High

المناجدة المناجدة

To the Nice The State of the S 242 Richard Lee

LEW

new year tips. If 1997 performs to form the run of the little 'uns will start petering out

in the spring. Last week's rip-roaring performance is in line with many of the forecasts from the City's

army of strategists. A strong opening, followed by a sharp dip in the summer or autumn and then a revival was the prediction heard in

many quarters.
But there is also a widely held view that the market starts a year as it intends to go on. On that argument NatWest Securities brave 4,600 Footsie forecast would appear to be in the

But, of course, if nothing else the market makes its own rules. Predicting is often a hazardous exercise but when it comes to forecasting the course of equities it is frequently a fool's

After all very few experts get it right sufficiently frequently to be able to join mega-rich

Joseph Lewis - who made his fortune guessing the direction of the currency markets and lives in the Bahamas - and enjoy the satisfaction of splash-

ing out £40m for 25.1 per cent of Glasgow Rangers. Last year the market underlined its waywardness by outmanoeuvring most experts. The general prediction was a

good first half followed by a poor second six months. In the event, the first six months had their moments but most of the action came in the second half.

In the eyes of some follow-ers, banks and financials hold the key to this year's display. They have been in the forefront of the equity charge and should they start to give up some of their gains then nasty cracks could materialise.

Robin Griffiths, experienced chartist at HSBC James Capel, is one freiting about the banking role and he is prepared to bet that Footsie could sink to

Medical | March | M

100's 100's 100's 100's 100's 100's 100's 100's 100's 100's

About Lab
Anne Express
Britar
Br



STOCK MARKET WEEK

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

as they are known.

performance.

rather more bullish on the

gests the first two weeks of next FTSE 250 stocks - or mid-caps month could be the testing He expects the supporting shares to throw off the shadow Mr Griffiths is, however,



signal.

Company insiders have a good record of forecasting the too difficult to tap the market direction of equity markets and although straightforward investors, without the benefit of any special knowledge, are fairly neutral it appears the actions of insiders, based on director share deals, are sending

out clear buy messages. Merrill Lynch says: "Company directors have an excel-lent record of timing the highs and lows of their share prices. Recently they have been buying their own shares, suggesting a good outlook for corporate profits."

Another test of whether the market is overheating is the quality of new issues. The more weird and wonderful they become the more likely it is that the dreaded crack is not far away.

vestment house, offers an off-There is no doubt that more beat guide to the market's and more companies, which under more subdued circum-Its investors and insiders

Oil Exploration

Oil, integrated Burnah Carl 1926'y Burnah Carl 1926'y

for funds. The trouble is that investors get carried away.

Flushed with their success in a heady bull market they are happy to fork out for oddball shares which in the cold, hard light of a bear market would clearly be regarded as highly

AIM and Ofex have attracted most of the fringe applicants, long on promise but decidedly short of any sign of near-term profits. Disasters have, fortunately,

been rare but when the chill winds blow the casualty rate could mount.
The only major company

Smith. On Wednesday it is expected to show its recovery, directed by former Post Office

Price Data

Sheare Price Care In the Price Data

Sheare Price Care In the Price Data

According 50 11 0 20 00 20 Prices are in starting eccapt where stated. The yield is bot year's dividend, grossed up by early care in the price of the price price. The prical amings (P/E) ratio is the share of the price of the price price. The prical amings (P/E) ratio is the share of the price of the price price. The prical amings (P/E) ratio is the share of the price of the price price. The prical amings (P/E) ratio is the share of the price of the price price. The prical amings (P/E) ratio is the share of the price of the price of the price price. The prical amings (P/E) ratio is the share of the price of the price of the price price. The prical amings (P/E) ratio is the share of the price of the pri

Wheely Proc Case 18 Pr Code 18 Proc Case 18 Pr Code 18

survey flashes a strong buy stances would not have a cat's uing and should produce halfchance in hell of scoring a flota- year profits more than 50 per cent higher at around £38m.

The basic Smith retailing business is thought to have achieved a dramatic improvement and distribution and the Waterstone's bookshops should also have performed

But the Virgin/Our Price music operation is likely to have slumped into losses, probably

reaching £2.5m. In August, the famous high street name reported its first deficit in more than 200 years of trading when, with a huge raft of exceptional items, it

managed a £194.7m loss. Sean Eddie and John Richards at NatWest Securities believe that the company "bas enormous leeway in what profit it declares" for the full year because of the £283.4m set aside last time for restructuring and the sale of what was regarded as non-core operations. The chief Bill Cockburn, is contin- NatWest guess is £117m.

Robe & N
Sayessen (C)
Sandarin EI
Sandarin EI
Sandarin EI
Sandarin EI
Sandarin EI
Serre Go
Se

മോ	Seryans		:	×	-	- TE-	431	Buc
Bank	ıs, Merci	ant		_		:	451 2811 251	Band Band Control Cont
31.	Cattle Allan	454	-:	1233 1237	F.4	238:	101	Cal
45TE	Ober 90s	T21	4.	33	ši	266	36338	الاتنا
250	58(3)	200	-3	ë	33	236:	20.00	Con
25.74	Hartestan	2.5	- 7.	37	24.	320	-53	Los
24	100 mg	18 A 8 A	+ 75	3	30	000	250	40
25. 25. 25. 25. 25. 25. 25. 25. 25. 25.	Fica Sex	59 59 59		ž	.30 234	20	~	Po-
244	ALC: UNKNESS	62	4	Ð	7,7	703	بت	Den
	Senzer School	136 •	41.	39	100	-78	1714	1
754	Links	ш,	٠.	47	e.	نديه	100	52
242	Virtue:	740	-2	49	1.9		-	Cur.
-	- B-4-7						angeraket.	-
Bank	ය, Retail						7.7	63.
20 JE 3	45N A	140.7	-112	30	16.0	1010	3.	(A)
2.22 0.83 2.80 2.80 2.80 2.80 2.80 2.80 2.80 2.80	Applies No.	Ē	F.	ã	111	5411	174	6.00
-	ALI INCH	~	- 7		T.B	2	74	Com
75	Anglo issa	40 40 40 40	-16	ឌ	100	255	70	Carr
3342	Asults	474		ä		3317	1874	Heave
.70	A. NZ	Ϋ́		75		ا .حد	3034	Harri
20360	Barcere Co	321 Dan	20'. H	3		272	2017 2017 2017	EA.
750	Baroo Sibao	133		×			12017	nch
775	Berrow do Sre	C33	1.0	40	123		-344	
14.213	Bardays Bk	353	-30	3	ž	1754	36.70	BAI hon kuth
	Be America	ms -		30	_	724 I	348	last
3004	B- beignd	61	- 1	77	727	200	20	Mod
14.213 2704 3887	PA NI Secon	10 66 61	-1	三 22 28	39	960 960	38	Non

Breweries, Pubs & Rest

Building/Construction

Ling Interest mag

589 AF into

1031 Advent

67 Arthur

964 Aron Autor

105 Bouten

105 Bouten

105 Bouten

105 Gro Mates

5724 Linet

105 Spene

501 Tibl

592 Spene

594 Spene

595 Spene

Food Manufactures

264 Agenthath 289;
2057 Aben Feitz G
461 Agenthath 289;
2057 Aben Feitz G
2058 Aben Feitz G
2059 Aben

如何不是不是不是不是,我们也是有不是是我的一个人,我们就是我们的,我们也是我们的一个人,我们也是我们的一个人,我们也是我们的一个人,我们也是我们的一个人,我们也

"I don't first direct have to get dressed to go to my

I written details of our services write to First Dire Drect is a division of Michand Bank pic. First Dire	
n an account for you. Cells may be monitored r recorded. Applicants must be 18 or over.	Member HSBC (C) Gro

80°+1	24	212	- 71		78335A 340812	Poem Math Corp	100 ti
Wrers		382	53	honle!!	17906 48296	Norsi Hydro Occidental Shell	000 + 1 000 + 1 000 + 2 000 + 2
다 2 매〉 1	GS 30	105 2	58 58	bank"	3420 Othe	se s Financ	
	10 1:25 31 51 28	108 200	部份		1224 24	Anglo Arres (NO) Calactaris	108 e+1 108 +1 775 - 122's -1 28's +1 280's +2
E6 +5 E6 -3	25 09	128 4 128 4			8072 956	CORPORE II	776
ъ.		128	艷		356 3892 626	Cadab Cada	250 +1 260 +2
24 .4+ i 181: +3 180: -	\ 85 \ 85 \ 42	100 : 163 :	900 900 905	for 24 hour telephone banking	1 12	Ches Teytor Chaste Go EFT Go	245 49 +3 10 +5
ent.	- 65 5J	107 2	270		#89 #86	Edn Fåldgs Exco	8007: +1
94 +1 76 -2	ነ <u>በ2</u> ን 36	322 2	30x 346 365	№ 0800 24 24 24	3078 2984 7827	Gurress Pt Hend Admin Investo	56: +5 33: - 362: +15
87 24 - 1	32 32	160 2	206	W 0000 Z7 Z7 Z7	27	inestrat Co kary&Sine	206 + 16 25 7 7 263 x+6 208 11
77 - 12 17 - 12	5 2	86.2	305 259	For full written details of our services write to First Direct, Freepost, Leeds, LS98 1FD.	22108 668	Jackine Strige Lein Fin inv	
8	34 64	B4 2	999i	First Direct is a division of Michael Bank pic. First Direct reserves the right to decline to open an account for you. Cells may be monitored	1369	Lein Forfig Longen Pacific Lein Seex Six	38 7 26 7 +6
ĝi +7 8	1235237217361P21937	132 2	108	and/or recorded. Applicants must be 18 or over. Member HSBC C Group	9400 23855	Lein Sext Ek Magg Group Magg	260 x+27
26) -5	37 44 12 12 دا	10 3		Mile Value Monthly Index State Name Namely Index	250 762	Name Loan	1797 =4
00 -5 1851 -17 1951 -17	3 5	89 3 139 3	236 236	DM Stock Price City Vid P/E Code DM Stock Price City Vid P/E Code	14468	Perpetual Prov Find Relatione Box	5227 +7
ř. 1	28 52 37	103.3	魔 佐	2017 Librar Com 1237 + 7 30 225 Sect 18:504 10 + 45 20 307 48232 Sn Alm B 165 x+ 20 410 275 TROUBLE 100 + 45 20 20 20	1756	Rustered S&U	58) 47)+7
9' 9' 1'	ι.	- 4	itta i	149 254 400 TR For East 175 3 49 254 426	334	Secure Trust Trib Holdings Woodshester In	542 +7 • • • 102 au
500 51 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	. 9일 2일 2일 23	112 4 116 4 125 4	썙냚	42332 Unon Carbida 127) · 17 · 4382 2265 171 Page 114 +1 12 · 468	i	maceutic	
14 A	길	155 4	i	1015 TH 5-b2mm 1005 4-1 450	527	Albreite	ant a
	8	- 1	576 '	investment Companies 27 22 11 hard 22 44 10 42 20 12 14 14 12 20 12 14 14 12 20 12 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14	14589	Assa AB Brt Blotech Carnab Prans	222, +10
11 3': 8	ær	294 1	92	909 God Asn Smr 227) +10 (3 - 263) 2529 (1909 Use 5) 33 452 422	3355	Chicaciande Gaus Walkons	707
			1	367 Sponson 12-2+4 of 554 122 manufact 24 122	956 10243 3056	Hundrycke Medica MeListis	2827 +297 2247 -38
8 +38 85 -1 86 -1	20 25 23	83 1	800 868 735	by Scriven 20 1 . 198 22 termin 2 41 20 52 45 Investment Trusts Leisure & Hotels	35484	Novo Nor B Papade Th	2781: +30
80 (80 (80 (80 (80 (80 (80 (80 (1111	65 4	B21 ™	100 Annual	185 973 577	Proteus fall Harmon W Scotla Hidge	35'y -3 62' +3'
	. 25	293	946 947	30A7 3 Grap 189 18 20 434 422 550 41 41 41 41 41 41 41 41 41 41 41 41 41	71-14-12	SkydPharms Skillench	697 + 50 1851 + 40 1865 + 40
4 5 2 1 6 +44 4 4+1 9	2 40 17 80	426 3	50 50 20 20	für Aberry in: 50°, - d 267 545, st 155 Coup. 16°, + 5 34 52° 1280 Abrod. 250 + 6°, 30 540 57°, 224 Bridering. 17°, - 4.3 54 173 2820 American iz 336°, + 6°, 21 531 585, 70°, 80 Blubering. 18°, - 17°, 68 88 185 6867 Ang & Chang. 68°, + 1 20 336 682°, 20°, 20°, 20°, 20°, 20°, 20°, 20°, 2	- 1	ing & Pa	
§11	; 30		56) 55)	Agriculture	2029	API Group	
4 2 +2 1 0 2 +4 1 7 +10 1 3 +2 1	22 22	263 34	504 492 829	335 Beriestin 25 2+13 27 726 395 Bundare 36 4-1 66 to 20 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	3	Adare Parting Appet Hologo Ario Worse Ao	527 +2 53 -18
+2\ 0\ +0\ 1\ +2\ 1\ +2\ 1\ +3	40 30 34	125 4 125 4 125 5	943 847 808	22 Amount 20 AT 80 90 20	190 2000	Appet Hologo Arjo Warra Ap Aspen Comm B Polymene	60 x+40 82 +2 83 -6 123 -5
€ + 8 :	,	- 14	## 	1899 Cardoser 200 527 27 300 200 401 Pet Cal 74 4 30 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200	540 967	Blagden in Blowster inc	460 +6 228 - 6 228 - 6
7 -15	28		184	2009 Derechting 763 +665 47 200 255 254 200 7 Feet Cross H BY 1 4 57 57 625 Derecht Sim Cox 572 1 1 4 57 50 6 50 50 50 50 50 6 50 6 50 6 50 6	282 970	Britton Gro	
des D 125	, zs	121 1	536	200 Durgan man (1975 - 1975 - 200 200) 74954 Germada 1897 p. 487 18 255 279 279 279 279 279 279 279 279 279 279	222	Bunzi Copper J De La Rus	27 x3 28 6 35 43 36 5 26 5 20 25
, 3,	33.42	# 152 S	##	665 Schnitter (29) +1 . 3876 5897 London Clubs 357 1+30 27 343 438	648 546	Delyn Gloup Delettin Pk	568 : +3' 28' - 5 20' - 24 10' - 2
B. ‡}	20	201	44 59 52 44 24	565 Schriftwiger 25 + 1 - 365 3 - 365	836	Ferguson Florar Janes Portr	207 - 34 167 - 3 230 - +6
	40	100 2	56	1909 Edn. Josef Sar 35 41 05 225 29523 Adebtode 527 44 32 307 375		Lour & Borns MY Holdros	407' 17 117' x+8'
9 +1 9 +1	268	26 H	273 149 28	906 EARGEMEN 9905 . 00 . 2007 ESV LANGE NO. 16 17 17 17 17	2240	Make Carterio	ינ. לפקי
75 +9	35 87	259 SI 784 SI 108 E		Transp Service 201 4-1 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	807 1685	Photoston Plytu PEXAM	95 43 5 20 1+2 335 2
9'> +'> 5 = 120	23	05 40 84 3		70 terring Crimere 201	732 6852	School Smith Dark	
+1	# # %	784 30 108 10 105 40 104 30 104 30 10	100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100	### Committed Committee	9	St hes Pt Traday Robor Whose	587 +19 107 = 1 867 1 288 6
12	20 · 20 · 20 · 20 · 20 · 20 · 20 · 20 ·	36	250 394 788	### Committee ##	309	Wece Weckington WiteroughsH	285 1 1 589 + 19 107 - 1 85 - 1 298 - 6 430 - 8
26	27		505 L	200 Rem Merc 322; 41) 28 385 2281 002 1000 1000 20; 11, 22 22	Prop	erty	
	4	201 年 201 年 201 年 201 年 201 年	27	\$238	1902	Alfed Lon Agos Prop	85) +11 90) 41 47 +11
+12	25	201 44 31 44	劉] :	500 Foreica Germ 109: +2: 05 4750 221 Zenes 10: - 50 104 654 1588 Foreica Inv 10: -2 16 88 257 1384 Foreica Inv 10: -2 16 168 259 Life Assurance	200	Bostons Bitcon BriLand	294's +11 523's +11
		* س	~	Fig. Collision 371 - 105 - 475	255 2051 22531 22531 3868 5027	Badkel Bibbs	255 2 26 3
8 * * E S	. <u>12</u>		57 <u>.</u>	356 Found 4 1127 286 48 429 504 Londrid No. 417 45 66 25 38	5897 1086 1087 700 105 790	Burtosti Capiti Regoli Caso Stroog Cas	85) +11 80) 41 82) 41 825 41 826 42 826 42 827 42 827 +21
8 + 8 1 + 8	18 52	15	20 97	504 Gint Grown 20 1 37	700 1925	Cap Shopg Ca Cardii Chessariets	200 x3 622'r +19'
+72	24	118 2 217 30 185 50	25 25 26 26 27	To Production 37 • 1 18 66 38 10 10315 Production 507 • 1 28 155 323 539 63 162		City Sta CNC Prope Correct Picture	80 88 1
3.	42	45 27	794	366 Gan Con Cp 213 + 101 - 4766 2751 Abbut Mest 7331 + 25 16 331 150	<u>'</u>		

Government Securities

lunro

1997 | Automation | Propriet | Propriet

Promising Aids trials provide a shot in the arm for Glaxo

Magnus Grimond

Promising Aids trial results over the weekend gave a fillip to Glaxo Wellcome's portfolio of new and existing HIV drugs. The company said it was "encouraged by these initial reports even if it was too early to draw firm conclusions from a relatively small trial.

According to Glaxo, a majority of patients suffering from human immunodeficiency virus, the precursor to full-blown Aids, saw levels of the virus drop to undetectable levels following four weeks of treatment with

resistance to the combined treatment, a problem which has dogged some other anti-

The news, released at a Washington medical conference yesterday, came alongside encouraging results from trials involving a "triple cocktail" of drugs using Glaxo's existing Retrovir (AZT) and Epivir (3TC) anti-Aids products in association with drugs detail. association with drugs devel-oped by Abbott Laboratories and Merck, two US rivals to

velopment by the drugs giant. children who had inherited the There was also no sign of any HIV virus from their parents, HIV virus from their parents, seeming to suggest a cocktail of the drugs administered early could stop HIV in its tracks. Again, researchers stressed that it was too early to know for certain whether the drugs were completely effective.

Separately, DuPont Merck, a joint venture between the Delaware-based chemicals company and Merck, said an experimental drug known as DMP-266 in conjunction with another Merck treatment, Crixivan, had shown a fall in HIV blood counts below detectable Those tests offered hope for levels in 82 per cent of patients.

drug trials, which were carried out by the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, were greeted with cautious op-

timism by the company. Richard Kent, director of world-wide clinical research, said: "While it would be extremely premature to draw any conclusions based on such early results in such a small number of patients, we are encouraged by these initial reports."

Larger trials involving a va riety of types of patient and different drug combinations were continuing, he added, "and we are working as quickly as pos-

The results of the new Glaxo sible to learn what their optimal role in therapy will be".

The new compounds involved are part of a new generation of anti-Aids drugs following on from Retrovir and Epivir. One, a so-called reverse transcriptase inhibitor codenamed 1592U89, was developed by Wellcome before its takeover by Glaxo as a suc-cessor to Epivir. The other is a protease inhibitor coded 141W94, which was invented by a US biotechnology company. Vertex Pharmaceuticals, and

has been licensed to Glaxo. The latest findings on the drugs' effectiveness in combi-

nation were released at the Fourth National Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in Washington. Five out of seven patients in the trial showed positive results, with the amount of virus in their bloodstream dropping to below 400 detections per millilitre, while infection-fighting

CD4 cells increased over the four-week period. The drugs were said to be "well tolerated", although nausea is clearly a problem, forcing one patient to discontinue the treatment.

Even so, analysts are expected to generally welcome the results as confirming the

the battle against Aids. Anthony Colletta of Glazo's own brokers, Hoare Govett, said on Friday: There are no fears about Glazo's position in the HIV market... even on the most bearish forecast it will still have 50 per cent of the market by the year 2000."

By then he expects the group's anti-Aids portfolio to be generating sales of £1.15bn. out of the total of £5.6bn forecast to be coming from new drugs launched between 1993 and 2000. Within that, the 1592 compound will be turning over £112m, while 141W sales could

value of combination therapy in be £121m, he believes. The trials on children, conducted by the University of Massachusetts, are similar to a study by leading Aids researcher David Ho. In his study of newly-infected HIV adults, he found that a mixture of Abbott Laboratories' Norvir with Glaxo Wellcome's AZT and 3TC could reduce the level of HTV in patients' blood

to below detectable levels. It also appeared to stop the disease's reproduction in the lymphoid tissue and elsewhere in the body.

He found similar effects with a mix of Merck's Crixivan and

Supermarkets on brink of new price war

Tom Stevenson City Editor

A supermarket price war will break out this year, slashing profits at the big grocers, if Sainsbury fails in its attempt to regain market share by other means. According to Verdict, the retail analyst, the likelihood of a damaging fight for dominance of the saturated food retail sector is greater now than at any time since the early 1980s. Kwik Save and Iceland are expected to be the biggest losers in the im-minent battle.

Following last Friday's profit warning from Sainsbury, which wiped more than £1bn from the value of its shares, the former sector leader is expected to come under increasing pressure from the City to revive its fad-ing fortunes. David Sainsbury. chairman, shocked the City last week by telling analysts their forecasts were £50m too high.

According to Verdict: "Compericion has never been more intop. It is clear looking forward

at the same time. Something has

to give."
A return to the use of price as the grocers' main marketing supremacy goes way beyond tool would hit all the supermarkets' return on sales but Verdict expects the hardest hit to be companies such as Kwik Save and Iceland that do not enjoy the benefits of Sainsbury's and Tesco's economies of scale.

Only the largest chains are currently in a position to launch and win a price war. Although Verdict believes Sainsbury is the most likely initiator of a price war, Tesco is expected to launch a pre-emptive strike if it thinks

Sainsbury is about to open fire. The need for Sainsbury to act has been heightened by the establishment by Tesco of a 2.6 percentage points market share lead. Tesco is widely seen as having been more innovative in product development, marketing and store design. It has narrowed the gap with Sainsbury in both sales density and operat-

hierarchy of retailers has area than its main rival, Tesco emerged with four players at the is expected to consolidate its pothat all four cannot perform well sources behind building its

brand reputation and widening its lead over Sainsbury. Verdict's report says: "Tesco's

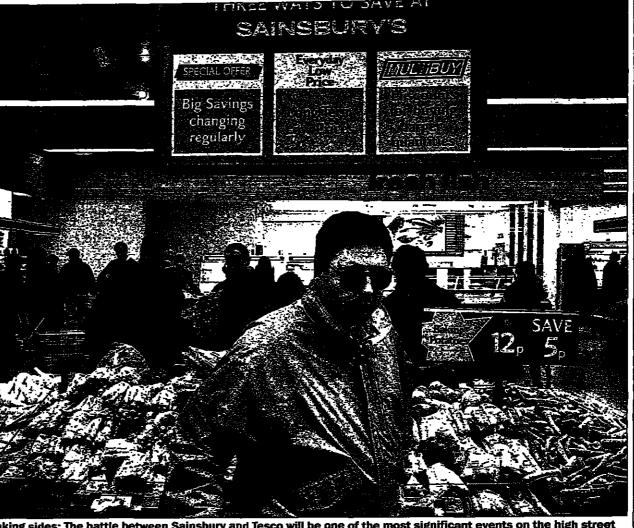
marketing expertise. The huge strides it made in improving product quality, ranging and customer service means that Tesco is delivering the promises made by its marketing.

The battle between Tesco and Sainsbury will be one of the most significant events on the high street this year, with the grocery sector estimated to represent 38p of every pound spent in Britain's shops.

The sector has taken on a sig-nificance well beyond the size of the food market - total grocers' sales of £64bn are 25 per cent more than the total amount spent on food. The renaissance of value for

money as the driving force of the supermarkets' sales efforts marks a shift away from the use of loyalty cards that has domi-

nsive to run and the jury remains out on whether they can retain shoppers' loyalty in the absence of product innovation and good service.



Taking sides: The battle between Sainsbury and Tesco will be one of the most significant events on the high street

the cards, which were first its customers, they are not gen- hard discounters, led by Aldi, launched by Tesco, as a dis- erating sufficient new revenue which has made a determined traction from its core retailing to cover their cost. skills. The cost of Sainsbury's Reward scheme was put at £10m last week and although the cards provide the company

Asda has already said it sees with valuable information about bated by a second squeeze from

As well as facing a threat from the majors slashing prices, the plight of the traditional high street grocers has been exacer-

play for the lower end of the market. According to Verdict. food retailers is management it is seen as providing a better service to the poorest end of the market than Kwik Save and

declined from 20 per cent to be-

low 10 per cent of Thomson's business, and called for the in-

dustry to reduce such offers still

further: "Square Deals have

no place in the market place.

They must be killed stone

Spain remains the most pop-

ular destination for British

director, said last-minute main conservative in their "Square Deal" holidays had choice of destination. Predict-

could become even more of a force if a merger of Aldi, Netto and Lidl were effected. Another issue affecting many

succession, with Asda, Safeway, Sainsbury and Tesco all seeing changes at the top.

ing holidaymakers' habits in

2009, Mr Bowden-Doyle said:

'Never mind all this nonsense

about Vietnam and Lebanon -

Yet evidence from a travel fair in London at the weekend sug-

gests that tourists' horizons are

expanding. When the Inde-

pendent Traveller's World exhibition closed last night, the

organisers said visitor numbers

had increased by a quarter on

the same event last year to

15.000. Helen Caldwell, exhi-

bition director, said: "Our ex-

perience shows people are desperate for information on

places other than Spain."

they'll all go to Spain."

Utilities tax seen as 'tip of iceberg'

Patrick Tooher

Labour's plans to raise up to £10bn from a one-off windfall tax on the privatised utilities is only "the tip of the iceberg" and could be levied on an annual basis, a leading institutional investor warns today in a down-

beat analysis of the sector. And an even bigger threat to the utilities comes from the prospect of tighter regulation and increased competition, regardless of the outcome of the general election, leading to "severe downward pressure" on the share prices of the utilities.

"Labour is likely to inherit a high public sector borrowing requirement [PSBR] if it forms the next government, with pressure to reduce it to meet the convergence criteria for European monetary union [EMU]. argues the report's author, Julian Fosh, investment director with Scottish Amicable Investment Managers.

"It is difficult to see how this, or any possible recipient for the cash raised by a windfall tax, could effectively be addressed by a single levy."

Instead, a one-off tax raising up to £10bn, divided into a £2.5bn levy over four years, would provide Labour with a steady income stream. "From there it is only a short step to make it an annual levy," Mr Fosh continues, noting that the targets for the one-off tax training, education, and youth unemployment - are by their very nature medium- or longterm commitments.

"The motive for making a one-off tax an annual levy is, therefore, strong," he con-

4]"[[0

Mal

V-11(5)

488ec

Mr Fosh also claims that the impact of an ongoing tax on utilities has been underestimated by investors. "With strong balance sheets, utilities could relatively easily withstand a one-off tax, raising up to £5bn. By contrast, an ongoing tax, even if a lesser sum were raised each year, would reduce future revenues at a time when these are already threatened by limited growth prospects and

tighter regulation." But it is the introduction of full competition that will hit the utilities hardest. "The effects of competition may be sudden and dramatic," Mr Fosh warns. "In gas and electricity, for example, there could be a significant and damaging overnight drop in margins as the regula-tor hands power to the market."

The regulatory outlook was clouded last week when Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, signalled he might be prepared to luosen price controls on power companies if they were hit by Labour's windfall tax. Labour has consistently denied the tax would have any effect on consumers' bills.

Germany positive it will meet 3% deficit target

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

The German government will publish a new report tomorrow sticking to its forecast that the economy will pick up this year. Its optimism contrasts with growing fears among economists that growth will be too sluggish for the government to keep its deficit low enough to qualify for the single currency.

The report will predict growth of 2.5 per cent this year, up from only 1.4 per cent last year. This will be enough, the government forecasts, for the gap between its revenues and spending to shrink to 2.9 per cent of GDP, just below the 3 per cent ceiling set in the Maastricht Treaty.

ΙŔ

RAI risi a b

 \mathbf{E}_{z}

ice of (velo on ov the first c ich iur

131

The tax reform package announced last week will, according to the forecast, boost growth by 0.5 per cent. Finance minister Theo Waigel said tax reform would boost competitiveness and job creation.

Yet the report is also due to admit that the unemployment rate will average 11 per cent for the year. Other forecasters are even more pessimistic, predictis unlikely to decline from its

record level of 4 million. This level of unemployment could have a very had impact on government finances," said Michael Lewis, an economist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell. On Friday trade unions said

they would not accept an invitation to talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl to discuss unemto take part in whatever political sham lies behind these talks," said a spokesman for the IG Metall union.

Union leaders are angry about welfare cuts introduced in the drive to trim the deficit. It is this anger that leads many experts to see strong growth this year as essential for public acceptance of economic and monetary union as well as for the sake of the budget.

Source: FT Information

The government's confidence that growth will revive enough for it to satisfy the Maastricht requirements this year, the key year for the decision as to which countries will qualify for EMU, is backed by the European Commission.

Holidays 'worth £10bn by 2009'



Charles Newbold: Greater demand from the retired

Chris Godsmark

Business Correspondent

Cable & Wireless has taken the

first step towards formally ditch-

ing its best-known brand name

in the UK with the removal of

the "Mercury" brand name from its UK telephone sub-

sidiary's London headquarters.

The move is a prelude to in-

Britain's package holiday in-dustry will double in size in the next 12 years, the market leader has predicted. Charles Newbold. managing director of Thomson. said at a weekend conference in Hertfordshire that sales across the industry would rise from around £5bn to £10bn by 2009. The increased demand would come largely from "cash-rich. time-rich retired travellers.

Thomson traditionally has about 30 per cent of the inclusive tour market, but has lost market share on advance bookings for the forthcoming summer season, which accounts for four-fifths of its business. Fig-

mark £5bn merger with three

cable operators.

Workers at Mercury Com-

munications' headquarters in

central London arrived on Fri-

day morning to discover that the

huge corporate logo on the

front of the building had been concealed behind white boards.

Inside, perplexed employees

were handed a brief letter from

ures for sales since brochures were launched last summer suggest that Airtours, Britain's second-largest operator, is narrowing the gap on Thomson. Airtours, which launched its programme ahead of Thomson. has gained a couple of points to 19 per cent, while Thomson has slipped back to 29 per cent.

Overall, about 9 million people are expected to take a package holiday from Britain this summer - the same as last year. After a disastrous summer in 1995, in which the top 30 tour operators collectively lost £10m. capacity has been reduced and prices increased.

Thomson's deputy managing ever, that most travellers will re-

move was a "first symbolic step in the process leading to the for-

mation of Cable and Wireless

Communications", the name

white covers will be in place for

approximately two weeks. We

will then put up interim signage with the Cable and Wireless

The letter went on: "The

for the new company.

package holidaymakers. The Dominican Republic has seen an increase in visitor numbers of 50 per cent over the past year, and has overtaken Florida as the leading long-haul destination among Thomson customers.

chief executive, which said the formed and launched in April

CURRENCIES

Richard Bowden-Doyle, The company believes, how-

Cable & Wireless poised to give Mercury the boot

Wireless Communications name and logo." Mercury was unable to ex-plain why it felt the need to hide weeks, rather than simply leave

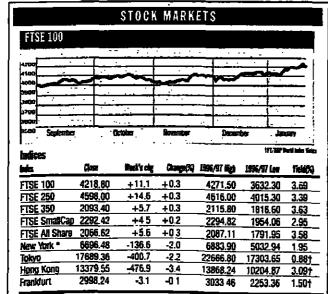
the Mercury name for two the logo in place until a new sign had been constructed. Howeylogo and name. When CWC is er, the decision to dispense

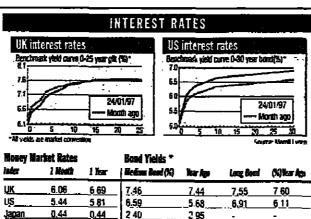
we will erect permanent signage

depicting the full Cable and

with the Mercury brand confirms the drive by Dick Brown. C&W chief executive, towards "global branding", using the C&W identity in all its subsidiaries. The decision to abandon the Mercury brand, some 11 years after the business began marketing telephone services, emphasises the

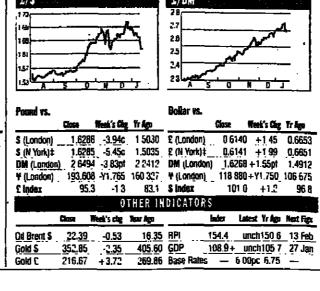
importance marketing will play in the success of the new group.





292.5 29.5 11.2 Samsbury(J)

corporating Mercury in a land- Peter Howell-Davies, Mercury's



Clyde plays final card with '140p' valuation

ue on its net assets of up to 140p, compared to the average of recent brokers' forecasts of 76p. writes Tom Stevenson.

The issue of the report, from Energy Resource Consultants, will represent Clyde's final card in its battle to fend off a hostile £432m bid from rival Gulf Canada.

The end of Clyde's defence will turn the spotlight on Gulf, which has so far failed to perof its existing 105p offer. Clyde's with a sweetened deal.

Clyde Petroleum will publish a shares closed at the end of last report from an oil industry con-week at 119p, suggesting the market expected a higher offer. and a number of institutions have indicated they would be unwilling to accept less than 135p for their shares.
Gulf has tried to talk down

expectations that it will return with a significantly higher offer. Seen as a bid to talk down Clyde's share price. Gulf's stance has remained unchanged it says it will walk away rather than overpay for Clyde. Despite its hardline approach, many in suade institutions of the merits
the City expect Gulf to return

اصكنان الاصل

50 19.9

201.5

m for Glav



The income tax commitments may

have been eye-catching, but in practice they did not involve important

new constraints on Labour's future freedom of manoeuvre

Brown kills tax and spend once and for all During the Napoleonic War, the Duke of Wellington was required by the Treasury **GAVYN DAVIES**

to account for every last detail of his army? expenditure. In reply, he asked "for eluci-dation of my instructions from you gentlemen of Whitehall so that I may better understand why I am dragging an army over these barren plains. It must be one of two alternative duties. I shall pursue either one, but I cannot do both. First, to train an army of uniformed British clerks in Spain for the henefit of British accountants... or per-chance, second, to see to it that the forces of Napoleon are driven out of Spain."

We are reminded of these words in a recent article by Nick Monck, formerly of the Treasury, who recognises that the control of public expenditure has been a contentious topic for as long as monarchs have levied taxes on their subjects, and accepts that an incoming Labour government will face huge pressure from the public services to repair two decades of Tory "underfunding". But he then puts in a cogent plea that a new Labour government should retain a "strong Treasury", focused mainly on accounting for the public sector's candle ends, and pre-set-ting overall spending targets largely inde-pendent of the views of the spending ministers themselves. His key point is that the control of aggregate spending is so difficult, and so important, that the entire public spending mechanism needs to be designed primarily with this in mind. Any relaxation in intent, he implies, will lead to an unintended explosion in spending. (Mr Monck's article appears in a valuable new collection of studies edited by Dan Corry of the IPPR, a think-tank not beloved of Michael Heseltine, but in this case a front for hard-head-

Mr Monck's article also contains the fol-

ernment arrives with a clear commitment on borrowing (the golden rule), and a belief that taxes cannot be raised significantly without jeopardising the chances of re-election, the level of expenditure will have been largely determined. Accepting this would then be quicker and simpler than a wholly new start, and would be more like deriving ceilings from

previous plans." He is right. In fact, his article might have heen the inspiration for Gordon Brown's watershed speech on tax and spend last Mon-day. For although Mr Brown's speech was initially noticed mainly for its promises on tax, its most important new commitment was to keep spending at the levels set by Ken-neth Clarke until the end of 1998/99.

The income tax commitments may have been eye-catching, but in practice they did not involve important new constraints on Labour's future freedom of manoeuvre. No Chancellor would contemplate increasing the basic rate of income tax, except in the kind of extreme circumstances which would probably bring down a government anyway. Furthermore, an increase in the top rate of income tax would have raised little more than filbn. Giving that up was a small price to pay for the political statement made. Even when added to Labour's other two commitments on tax - to reduce VAT on fuel from 8 to 5 per cent, and to avoid an extension in VAT coverage to food, fares, children's clothes, books and newspapers - there are plenty of other places for Mr Brown to look if he ever chooses to raise the burden of taxation.

This is presumably why he decided to give the electorate some extra reassurance on tax. Initially, he hit upon the formula of saying that Labour had no new spending commitments which would require extra tax to lowing prophetic passage: "If a new gov- | finance them. That seemed fairly watertight, | Growth in real public expenditure

But it was eventually deemed not enough, | in 1998/99 did not have to be finalised unsince spending and tax could still rise for reasons unconnected with Labour's programme (as a result of higher unemployment for example). So last week Mr Brown went further and fixed the absolute total of spending at Mr Clarke's level.

The key question is whether this development, which offers the electorate a beltand-braces guarantee on tax and spend, limits an incoming government's future freedom for manoeuvre in an unacceptable way. On the surface, there does seem to have been a loss of manoeuvrability here - after all, until last week, it would have been open to Mr Brown after the election to have made an immediate change to the Clarke spending targets, on the grounds that they had been

set unrealistically low for political reasons. Even if this was not being contemplated, the precise target for government spending

til November, and much can happen to change the appropriate level before then. This degree of elbow room has now been

Furthermore, Labour has now voluntarily accepted the terms of an ingenious trap that was set for the next government by Mr Clarke's last two Budgets. In both of these packages, the Chancellor reduced the burden of taxation, justifying this on the grounds that public expenditure growth would be held down to implausibly low growth rates in the next three years (as the graph makes clear). Only if these spending plans can actually be delivered does the path for government borrowing in the Budget plans look even remotely appropriate.

This is the crux. Without the option of extra borrowing, any increase in the spending total obviously implied an acceptance that

the burden of tax would rise. And Messrs Blair and Brown genuinely do not wish to see this happening. No doubt they recognised that the arithmetic would apply just as re-morselessly after the election as before it. They recalled that the 1974-79 Labour government never recovered from losing control of the purse strings in its first six months, and resolved that this was not going to happen to them. All of this being the case, why not bite the bullet immediately. when they might gain some electoral advantage from the announcement, and when any opposition to the decision from within their own ranks was likely to be more muted than it would be after polling day?

Of course it would have been more convenient if Mr Clarke had not cut taxation in the 1995 and 1996 Budgets, so that a higher baseline for tax receipts could have been allocated either to lower borrowing or to more realistic spending targets. But with Mr Clarke having out taxation, all of Mr Brown's options were circumscribed and difficult. At the end of the day, it was more a question of when, rather than whether, to accept the spending totals. (Ironically, while the Clarke Budgets may have failed to win the 1997 election for the Tories, they might do more to contribute to the re-election of his party in 2002, after the electorate has observed Labour's attempts to hit his spending targets.)

There will be difficult times ahead. Although there has been no outery from the Labour Party this week, the muffled sound of gnashed teeth and bitten lips has emanated from many quarters, including some very close to the New Labour camp. Will Hutton has even suggested that Mr Brown's landmark speech could mark the end of "the social democratic project" in Britain. The Royal yacht will not be the only important casualty of this decision.

It's crunch time as PepsiCo gets set to offer the Frito challenge

David Usborne

It was Superbowl time in the United States yesterday and the rhythmic crunching that you could hear across the land was not the sound of over-developed shoulders and leg gristle colliding on the field but of millions of viewers grazing on their TV snacks - multitudes of fists in multitudes of crisp and pretzel packets. A good day for American football fans, but an

even better day for PepsiCo. How many of these fans were also lugging cans of Pepsi from the fridge to the settee - rather than beer and, whisper it low, Coca-Cola - is less certain. But headquarters of PepsiCo, they will not worty too much about that. With 54 per cent of the domestic snack-food market controlled by its own Frito-Lay division, the battle of the supercrisp bowls will have assuredly

A new PepsiCo is about to be

born and Frito-Lay will be at the core of it, with some suggesting, albeit mischievously, that Frito, not Pensi, will be the company name. The metamorphosis was begun last week when PepsiCo helmsman Roger Enrico finally announced what Wall Street had been dying to hear for months: the company was

swearing off pizza, chicken and

Mexican tacos for good.

The decision to spin off PepsiCo's three-chain fast food division, comprising Pizza Hut, Taco Bell and Kentucky Fried Chicken, won almost universal approval. The diversion into the restaurant business taken in the Seventies and Eighties proved a masterstroke for a while. But recently the three chains have been struggling: PepsiCo's shares have been in the dumps and management has been distracted by the problems. So the restaurants will be re-

leased to go it alone. (In numbers of outlets it will be the biggest fast-food enterprise in the world.) What will be really interesting, now, however, is the direction that PepsiCo will take. Will Mr Enrico allow the company to become consumed once more by its decades-old rivalry with Coca-Cola? Or will he switch focus to his winning Frito-Lay brand? Or will both happen?

once a proud gladiator. Its successes in the 1980s included the pioneering of diet beverages and its "Take the Pepsi Challenge" campaigns. The slogan was in part responsible for the awful decision by Coca-Cola to introduce a "new" cola which then had to be replaced again by the 42 per cent, worldwide the picture is much more bleak. Coca-Cola has almost 50 per cent of the global market and Pepsi only 22 per cent.

Last year was especially dreadful for Pepsi. Little impact

sive shift from red-and-white to all-blue on its cans in international markets (in spite of the blue Concorde stunt). And it suffered acute setbacks in Latin America, notably the defection of its once super-loyal Venezuelan bottler to Coca-In the cola wars, PepsiCo was Cola and the virtual financial collapse of its giant bottling interests in Brazil.

was seen from its wildly expen-

There is now some optimism that, freed of the restaurants, PepsiCo can do a better job of selling the fizzy brown stuff. One consequence of the spin-off should be improved opportunities to get Pepsi flowing in the crucial restaurant-fountain market. Until now, whenever Pepspectable, with 31 per cent of to mchude a Pepsi tap at its bar, the market against Coca-Cola's the answer has been not if it helps promote your restau-Mr Enrico should also be lib-

erated to concentrate on solving PepsiCo's various bottling difficulties and getting his army marching aggressively again

around the globe. "Right now, PepsiCo has to attack the world, to continue to open countries such as China," said Tom Pirko of Bevmark LLC, a New York consulting firm. "It shouldn't be worrying how to survive a bloody profit crunch in the pizza business." Other hopeful Pepsi spots include the rest of Asia and eastern Europe.

And then there is Frito-Lay. If PepsiCo wants to lay aside its fixation with catching-up with Coca-Cola, it could conclude that its best hopes of growth (and of increased stock valuation) lie not in beverages at all, but in salty snacks. One version of the future would have Pepsi-Co as a snack-food behemoth fizzy drinks division. Already PepsiCo has a huge

lead. In 1995, its world-wide snack sales produced \$30.4bn compared with just \$18bn for Coca-Cola's snack brands. In 1995, the snacks division accounted for 44 per cent of ican consumes just 2 pounds of PepsiCo's operating profits and crisps and pretzels in a year sales, "Steven Reinemund, who



Getting a pizza the action: Pizza Hut is one of three chains that will be floated off

the figure is still rising. In-ternationally, profits from snacks in the same year rose by an impressive 16 per cent.

And consider this statistic as a pointer to potential for global growth: the average non-Amer-

while the guzzling American puts away 17.5 pounds (a good part of it on Superbowl Sunday). All PepsiCo has to do is get the rest of the world as addicted to TV-snacking as Uncle Sam. "In the US, roughly a quarter-bil-

heads the snack-food division, said recently. "There are 6 biltion people internationally, so imagine the opportunity. With the pizza and chicken

wings leaving by the back door, a new mantra might be apt at PepsiCo headquarters: it's time to take the Frito challenge.

Franchises

Lucrative

for sale.

Pirtell, the UK leader in on-site

hose replacement, needs to assign established tranchises

in return for investing time, effor

and capital (approx £70k), you'll get the best business formula

around plus all the long term technical marketing and training

support you need Discover a business that's proven its worth

in Australia, America and the UK.

PIRTEK.

Call our Franchise Direct on 0181 749 8444 today.

nanagenal backgrounds

outlets

'Quarter of female solicitors harassed'

Roger Trapp

he boot

A quarter of young female solicitors claim to have been subjected to sexual harassment during their careers, according to a survey published today. The report, "The Law at

Work", by legal recruitment consultancy Reynell, also reports that half of women solicitors feel they have experienced discrimination in their career because of their gender. But the findings suggest that

it is not only women who are suffering. Assistant solicitors, lawyers who are not partners in their firms, feel undervalued. They complain that a "long hours culture" is blighting the profession and just under half of respondents say they feel vulnerable if they are not seen to be working the same hours as colleagues

They are also pessimistic about their chances of promotion and critical of management, with two out of three assistants unable to say they have full confidence in decisions made by senior partners.
Reynell believes that some of

the problems stem from poor internal communications, pointassistants know enough about the performance of firms which, as partnerships, are not required to disclose financial in-

Stuart Robinson, Reynell senior consultant, said: "British law firms have emerged from the recession providing a range and quality of legal services un-rivalled by any other country. "However, there is evidence to suggest that the higher lev-

els of competitiveness may be

having an adverse effect on

Panior practitioners."

IN BRIEF

 Porsche, the luxury car manufacturer, is set to become the latest German company to shift its production abroad to meet strong demand for its latest model and to escape high labour costs. "We are not able to fulfil the incoming orders," Porsche's chief executive, Wendelin Wiedeking, told the BBC's Money Programme. "There are in western Europe some capacities available where we want to go with our key people." Mr Wiedeking declined to say who Porsche's partner would be to build some of the new Boxster sports cars, for which there is a six-month waiting list. The move has angered workers who fear it is an attempt to cut

 Wage increases are being paid for by improved productivity in nine out of 10 companies, according to a survey today from the Confederation of British Industry. Just over half the 700 manufacturing and service firms surveyed said pay and productivity were increasing at the same rate while 38 per cent said performance was improving faster than pay. Increased investment in new technology and plant and greater labour flexibility were cit-ed as among the main reasons for the productivity growth.

 Managers are struggling to assess the worth of people businesses, especially in the Square Mile, according to a report by City law firm Theodore Goddard. Market research group NOP found that half of the directors of Britain's top 1,000 companies believe it is impossible to accurately assess the value of staff when buying or selling a company. They also tend to be frustrated by the belief that accountants instinctively rate property and plant higher than people when establishing the worth of a business. This is particularly true in the City, where the role of individuals has been highlighted by the Nicola Horlick affair.

 ScottishPower has won a £25m contract to supply electricity to all three of Motorola's semiconductor production plants in Scotland. The three-year deal is one of the biggest group energy deals of its kind and covers factories at South Queensferry, East Kilbride and Bathgate. The company already supplies electricity to IBM, United Glass and National Semiconductor.

 Labour says the new Asylum Act, which comes into force today, will criminalise small firms and cost them at least £12.5m in the first year alone. From today every employer must check the immigration status of potential employees and recognise docu-ments ranging from a Liechtenstein passport to an Icelandic iden-tity card in order to establish a defence against prosecution under

• Bioscience Innovation Centre plans to become the latest biotech company to seek a listing on the Stock Exchange. The Cambridge-based firm plans to raise up to £6m through a placing and offer on the junior Alternative Investment Market. BIC aims to identify the most promising embryonic bioscience businesses, give them laboratory and office facilities and provide management skills. David Best, its chief executive, helped groom biotechnology group PolyMASC for its flotation on AIM last year. Teather & Greenwood is the nominated adviser and broker to the company.

• Celtic Energy, Britain's second-biggest coal miner, plans to move into power generation. It is in talks to buy Uskmouth B power station near Newport in south Wales which has been closed for 18 months.

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

Opportunities

STRATEGIC PARTNERS FOR TOP CONSULTANCY

Now that Britisn' telephone and utilities industry has been privatised, 8 out of 10 businesses could out their supply costs by as much as 50% by shopping around. Not knowing how, they are pleased to turn to experts the us to do the job for them.

Established 1977, every day we help hundreds of clients, from small businesses to multi-national organisations, save millions of pounds on phone, electricity, gas and water costs semming 50% of the savings we identify for several years. Since most organisations find a difficult to refuse our 'no win, no see offer to save them money, our business is republy

NEW PARTNERS

We are now looking for strategic partners findividuals or occupies) with £12,900 (+ VAT) investment capital who can extend our service nationally.

We provide specialist training, full back-up, business software and congoing management support. This is an extremely lucrative service which can be home-based For our free business

NEW PARTNERS

01962 863 915

AUditel (UK) LTd.

£364 extra

Average weekly profits last 2 years the most enjoyable profit I've ever made' Just 1 hour each Saturday

No stock, no selling Not MLM or franchise Total capital investment £3,995

01452 532415 24 hrs, 7 days Prime Analysis (Europe) Limited

AGENTS/ASSOCIATES/ STRATEGIC PARTNERS req'd to handle/source clients in Computer/IT Networking
No franchise type Re req'd.
Also Energy/Environment
usecost/managament
control. Earn £1000/5000
per contract Training/Govt. grants svat! 01706 352203 (C Lampard)

AMERICA U.S. IMMIGRATION for free information cali: 0116 277 0536

DO YOU LIKE TO

learn and the income

potential is outstanding!

Professional Training

We offer excellent training

(can include a partner) and full business back-up.

supported by skilled debt

If you would like to know more

about our Associate training

Programme and have £9,900 (+VAT) investment capital

NEGOTIATE? If so, negotiating with craditors for your clients to reduce problem debts could be the perfect business for you. No Competition &

Quick Cash Flow Mediation and debt negotiation is one of the UK's fastest growing yet least known consultancy areas, offering phenomenal income potential, no competition and cuick cash flow.

Average £3,500 Per Case Established 30 years in the UK and US, we earn substantial fees negotiating amicable settlements betwee debtors and creditors over

0171 225 3755 Fax 0171 581 2068 able to reduce by up to 70% We work on a results-only basis, earning an average £3,500 each case we hand

salesperson
approximately £4.
When this product is taken to the customer's door the response can only be described as exceptional, because about one person in three buys. Our salespeople charge the customer about £20 and sell on average ten per day, thus making themselves a very good living without having to cuttay a large amount of their own money. Interested ?

(01777) 838844IDEA OR • SESILVENTION INTERNATIONAL PRODUCT DESIGN 1 Barley Street, London Will 10A

in most post code areas of the Uk

This is an exceptional opportunity being offered by QM Ltd, a CCTV and Video Conferencing Company based in Exeter with connects throughout the UK. Qualitied leads supplied. Successful applicants will want a full-time career and be o the calibre to earn 20K O.T.E. + Full training given at our two or seminar in Torousty. Phone 01392 411358

PROFIT FROM GAMBLING Professional gambler with \$1 mation plus annual homo-01253 885269

Opportunities

Services

(Not '00' Nos) UK based * UK paid PAID WEEKLY! Total Package £10995 inc YAT Call for details: InterCall Services 0121 608 1888 or, Sunday only 0468 017660

NOTICE

TO READERS Whilst we take reasonable precautions with all advertisements, readers are strongly advised to take professional advice before paying a deposit or entering

To advertise in this section please call David Owen on

2338,

0171 293

mediate delivery service

Do vou ever peed a fast efficien

delivery at SHORT NOTICE?

mational *Direct* are availa

24 hrs a day delivering throughout the UK & Europe CALL US NOW!

Tel:- (24hr) 01227 770261

Litmus test for the loathed

A general election will decide the fate of an unpopular science policy, says Charles Arthur

restige. Status. National pride. Those are the sort of words that a vote-eager defence secretary might use when announcing (to pluck an example from the air) a new royal yacht: but they're also, you would hope, the sort of considerations that would go into deciding the fate of the nation's publicly held scientific expertise. You can be sure, though, that the fate of the latter will not reap the same headlines when it is announced in Parliament in the next fortnight or so.

Yet it will, arguably, affect more people - specifically, thousands of scientists and staff at Governmentowned research laboratories up and down the country.

The expected announcement will be the next stage of the Government's Prior Options policy, which aims to see whether there are better ways of managing various laboratories currently funded by the public sector. Those laboratories cover a huge range of expertise - the Royal Observatories, fisheries research, buildings research, a broad range of animal and veterinary research, the Public Health Laboratory Service, and others - employing more than 20,000 people.

There's a fair chance that the decision will be more popular than last week's one about That Yacht - par-ticularly if the decision is effectively no decision, in the form of a postponement. That would push any real action beyond the date of the general election. If the Labour Party wins that, it has already pledged not to continue

with the programme.

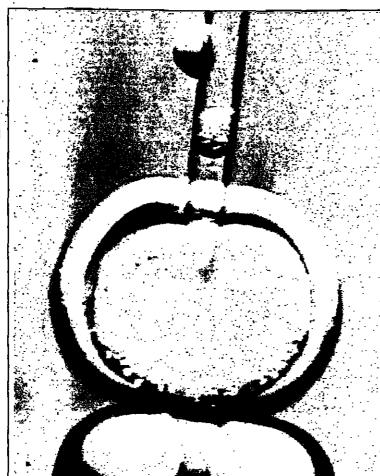
But even if no more laboratories are moved immediately out of the public sector, figures collated by the Labour Party show that the cost of the review is already at least £4.3m, including £2m spent preparing the Royal Observatories for privatisation before the idea was abandoned late last year.

Adam Ingram, the shadow minister for science and technology, notes that the real cost may be higher: much of the review work has been done by fulltime staff at the centres, whose time is not clocked in the same way as that

of a consultant investigating it.

There are also the pension costs of doing this, but those are unquant-ifiable," he said after collating the fig-ures last week. "These are just the costs of getting ready to do it. But given the imminence of the general election, and the importance of PSREs (public sector research establishments), I think this issue would be better considered after the election."

The name of the scheme refers to the checklist against which a laboratory should, by the ideology, have been



Cloning of cells and sheep at Edinburgh's Roslin Institute, a laboratory considered for

checked before continuing as part of the public sector. The options are to abolish it, privatise it or contract it out.

(That was handed over to private management in July 1995.)

By contrast, it's hard to pick up a (Management buy-outs are allowed, though not bids by the research coun-

cils which operate the laboratories.) For a government that seems to thrive on unpopularity, the Prior Options scheme is ideal compost to heap upon the heads of those in the public sector. It really is hard to find anyone with a good word to say for it, aside from the ministers at the Department of Trade and Industry (DTT). Even the DTI press office wasn't able last week to find a figure for the savings produced since the first sell-offs were announced, with the sale of the Transport Research Laboratory and the Laboratory of the Government Chemist last April. The latter wasn't exactly profit-making the buyer paid £360,000 but the DTI handed over almost £2m to relieve the Government of liabilities linked to disentangling it from the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington, which

By contrast, it's hard to pick up a science paper without coming across someone who is unhappy about Prior Options. Last year the Royal Society issued a statement criticising the scheme on four key points, notably that "care is needed to ensure that Prior Options does not damage the highly successful collaboration that has built up between universities and research council institutes, and that repeated reviews questioning the continued existence of public sector research establishments ... [might] adversely affect efficiency and pro-

Nor does the scheme have a fan in Derek Roberts, a former GEC manager who is now provost of University College, London, and president this year of the British Association. He. like many critics, objects that the principle of selling off national expertise and putting it into the private sector doesn't allow for the swings and handles various physical standards. roundabouts of the economic cycle.

"If you privatise something and sell it off," he says, "then by definition it will go through bad periods without particular hazards, when nothing much needs investigating. The whole thing could be reduced in scale, or closed. Then, three weeks later, we have a disaster and need it again, at

full strength or more." Examples are not hard to think of: the BSE crisis (and last March's an-nouncement of a putative link with the human disease CID), and the E coli outbreak in Scotland, come to mind.

The independence of such research establishments is also important. John Mulvey, of the pressure group Save British Science, comments: "Their independence and disinterestedness must be beyond question. But in the private sector that's not the case. We have seen how tobacco companies have suppressed research they funded but whose results they haven't liked."

The Buildings Research Establishment (BRE) is the next in line to be privatised. Isn't it surprising to find Professor Roberts leading one of the two

MERCURY

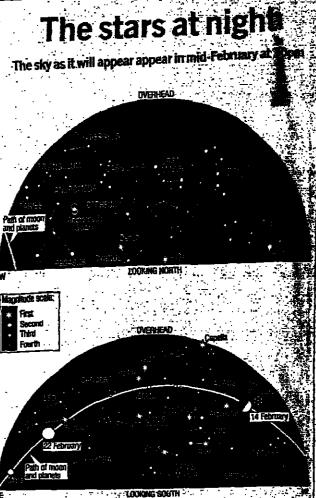
bidders left in last week's race for it? Not so, he replies. "I think most of the disposals are bad. But we have created a trust with about 100 companies in the construction industry because we believe that this way, training and research expertise will be retained in the BRE." The individual

companies can also feel confident

ivatisation Photographs: Science Photo Library/Clare Arron

that any research is impartial. The maximum exposure is £1, which I provided out of my pocket. The idea isn't to take risks - banks can take risks. It's a stupid policy, but if that's the policy then that's what we have to do." All the same, he says, "The whole thing is being pursued on a ridiculous timescale." His consortium's bid went in last Monday, with the choice due last Friday. (The other bidder is a management buy-out backed by the venture capital firm 3i.) "The final disposal terms will be negotiated by the end of February, which

Not that anyone said government policies had to make sense - except when there's an election looming.



The sky as it will appear in mid-February at 10pm There is a hint of a new season in the night sky this month,

with the appearance of Leo, the most prominent constellation of spring, in the east. It will move to centre stage high in the south during March and April.

Another return graces the skies this February. Until May, we'll be hearing in greater detail about Comet Hale-Bopp, an unexpected celestial apparition which may be the most spectacular comet for almost a century.

This ball of ice and rock is brightening as it closes in on the Sun, boiling off its ices ever more fiercely. Look to the east in the pre-dawn skies for a first sighting, but don't worry too much if you're not an early riser—the best is yet to come. The comet will be brightest in late March and early April.

This month, early-evening skies are dominated by the bril-

This month, early-evening skies are dominated by the hall-liant stars of winter. Look south for mighty Orion, with seven-bright stars framing his shoulders and belt. To the upper right is his ancient adversary, Taurus the bull.

The evening sky is also sporting two planets. Saturn is growing in the south west after support it against a 220-

ing in the south west after sunset. It sets at 8.30pm; simul-taneously, orange-red Mars is rising in the east. Two American probes – Mars Global Surveyor and Mars Pathfinder – are on their way to the red planet for a rendezvous in the summer and early autumn. Designed long before last summer's Martian life

early autumn. Designed long before last summer's Martian life controversy, they will be seeking out water on the planet.

Satura, meantime, is the target of a much more drawn out space mission. The US probe Cassini will be launched in October on a journey to the vast ring world which will take seven years. The main Cassini craft will release the European space Agency's Huygens craft which will land on Titan, the sine's biggest moon. This mysterious world is wreathed in Titalic. orange atmosphere, under which may lurk molecules that could form life in warmer conditions.

A CABLE & WIRELESS COMPANY

February diary 7 3.06pm new moon 14 8.57am Moon at first quarter 22 10.27am full moon

Heather Couper and Nigel Henbes

theoretically

Turnours need blood, so if you cut off their blood supply, they should die, shouldn't they? That's the thinking being pursued by a team at Texas Sputhwestern Medical Center in Dallas. They treated solid tumours in mice with an antibody intended to promote blood clotting in those cells: when given intravenously, the therapy resulted in complete tumour sions in 38 per cent of the cancerons mice. The strategy can't be used immediately in humans, though, because suitable antibodies for tumour blood vessels haven t yet been identified.

If you have a tense, nervous headache, don't blame mechanical tension. That's what helps to hold your neurons together and allowed your cerebral cortex to fold so thoroughly. That's the suggestion (at least, the bit about the tension is) from David Van Essen at Washington University, Missouri, who in last week's edition of Nature suggests that the mechanical

- 22

16

E.

W

interpretation of the second o

can explain why the average cerebral cortex is so highly folded that it has a surface area of about 1,600 square centimetres three time what it would be without any CONVOINTIONS.

Why scream while you're being eaten by a tiger? Maybe it is the sort of question only scientists would ask, but it's particularly the kind that puzzles behavioural ecologists. Is it to warn other potential victims away? Or to attract help? A new experiment with pike and minnows (the former eats the latter) by a Canadian team found a third reason: you might attract another predator which would fight the first one for you, the trophy - giving you the chance to slip away. Worth bearing in mind if you're an explorer ...

The smell of garlic on somebody's breath doesn't come directly from the plant itself, but from chemical changes in the blood, according to a team from the University of Innsbruck in Austria. Three

dimethyl sulphide and acetone - took some hours to reach their peak level in blood, and were still present 30 hours later. But acetone is produced by degradation of fatty compounds in the blood, including cholesterol, and its concentration in subjects' breath was higher than that from crushed garlic.

Hawaii, California and Florida have the most endangered species, according to a new map of biodiversity in the US, drawn up by a team from Princeton University. The map shows "hot spots" where unusually large numbers of endangered species are found: unsurprisingly, these lend to overlap with intensive urbanisation and agriculture. Such species also tend to be "endemic" (restricted in their ability to shift to new sites) and so are prone to extinction. Knowing where the hot spots are can help save species, because a large proportion of endangered species can be protected on a small proportion of land, say the authors.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD No. 3206. Monday 27 January DOWN Feel concern about scrolllike ornament (9) The Italian's absorbed by exceptionally large paintings (4) Suddenly understand when you see it (8) Loop round inside bouquet Vehicle's part of contract order (7) Drink too much old wine and turn in (3,3,4) Incite prison in rebellion (4,2) 12 Very close detail isn't filled 15 Fashionable society, French style (4.5) 16 Reason for happening (8) 18 When one smiles it gives a false impression (7) 20 Pass from number one forward on the outside (6) They are entitled to ser-ACROSS 14 Be right about one Renaisvices we hear (5) Match reference number sance sculptor (8) 24 Knife sticks upside-down (2-8) 8 Breaking party-line leads to reciprocal action (9) 17 Actor's public hearing (8) 19 Runner's worry about money being on time (6) ey being on time (6) Play's a piece by English - all right (4) comic writer (4.4) 10 Go along with scheduled 23 Unprincipled American attack (4,2) male's spoken at last (6) 11 Avoid Pole despite arrange- 25 Fret over never-ending drill 13 Suppose former favourite's 26 Plan one new strains say (9) hiding note (6) 27 Being fit and attractive

C Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Cenary Whatt, London E14 5DR, and St Alburo Road, Walford Back souts available from F and printed at Mirror Colour Print St Albr



WHEN YOU ADD MERCURY SMARTCALE

Keep your phone, keep your number, keep your line. In fact, all you subtract with Mercury SmartCall is between 20-39% off BT's basic rate on all international economy calls of five minutes and over. FreeCall 0500 500 366 and we'll give you the figures for your home phone bill.

Mercury SmartCall.

You don't have to be a genius to see how much you'll save.

Prices and savings correct as at 31 December 1996, compared unth BT's basic rate for international calls of 5 minutes or more, 6pm-8am weekdays and any time weekends. http://www.mercury.co.uk